



**Joint Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.
Franklin School District - SAU Office**



In attendance: Councilor Vince Ribas (Chair), Councilor George Dzujna, Councilor Valerie Blake, Deb Brown (Co- Chair), School Board Chair Tim Dow, School Board Vice Chair Delaney Carrier

Absent: None

Others in attendance: City Manager Judie Milner, Finance Director Pessy Cote, Superintendent Dan LeGallo, Business Administrator Jefferson Braman and Curriculum Coordinator Jule Finley and from the public James Rago and Nathan Rago (departed at 6:32pm)

Deb Brown (Co-Chair) opened the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

Agenda Item I.

Consider the minutes of the April 13, 2023 Joint Finance Committee Meeting:

Motion was made by Tim Dow to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2023 minutes with minor typographical corrections. Seconded by Councilor George.

Deb Brown asked if there was any discussion.

6 in favor: motion passes.

Agenda Item II.

Funding Source Discussion:

At the last meeting, the committee decided to review the potential for revenue. To that end, Judie Milner and Jefferson Braman shared information regarding revenue potentials for this year.

a) How do we raise revenue in order to cover programs and not cut services? –

- Jefferson Braman presented the 10 year revenue projections for the Franklin School District and reviewed how the State calculates the Adequate Education Grant. This is the only number that significantly changes year to year and is based on current law. The only way to effect this is contacting State Legislators. The only other items percent of changed are on the bottom of the report. Judie Milner asked if there were any numbers on this chart that we could be effected on a local level. There are really no numbers that can be effected without spending more money.
- Judie Milner presented the 2023 projected revenues (not including property taxes, grants and transfers between funds). Motor Vehicle Registrations is somewhat cyclical based on purchases. Payment in Lei of Taxes or PILOT is from non-profits that are not required to pay taxes, but make a contribution to participate in City Improvements. The City will be speaking to the hospital and Peabody Place about participating in a PILOT. The Meals and Room Tax is based on a formula that the State uses and is not related in any way to the number of restaurants and hotels within the municipality. There was discussion on how Air B&B rentals are handled by the State. Judie Milner reviewed how the Flood Control Reimbursement funding is calculated by the Department of

Revenue Administration (DRA). Sale of Municipal Property was reviewed and is cyclical as well as are many of the items on this list. Interest Income is high and is also based on the state of the economy. The Cable TV Franchise is going to be disappearing in the next couple of years. Currently Comcast is looking at coming into the area which will help make up for some of the loss as the Breezeline contract is reduced. Shared Costs with Bessie Rowell is the amount of the maintenance and up keep costs that the tenants pay. In addition, each tenant contributes \$5,000 annually to a capital improvement fund. Permits, fees and fines are small and are about the same as all the surrounding communities. Ambulance Billing is not projectable at all. There is a heavy payer mix that often results in a write-off. Fire Ambulance Service Fees, this is paid by Andover and we collect on the user fees. Police Dispatch is 5 other communities including Franklin and is based on number of calls. Road Maintenance Highway Block Grant is calculated by the State and does not cover the entire Department costs. The Federal DOT has approved a Safe Streets for All program. This is a 5 year of up to 5 million dollar Grant and we will be applying for some of this grant. Transfer Station fees have been adjusted recently and again completely covers the material going out. The summer program at the Rec Center is a break even program and partially covered by a grant.

- James Rago asked if there are Legislators that support us at the State Level. Judie indicated that in the past there has not been support, but our new Senator Innis is being very responsive this year.
- Delaney Carrier asked if there is any room for fee increases. Judie indicated that many of the fees have just been increased as a result of new department managers coming in. However, increasing participation in a PILOT programs will help. Deb Brown asked if impact fees have ever been applied. Judie indicated that they have, however there are no current housing developments that would affect those numbers. James Rago asked if the next agenda could include a list of specific grants and the stipulation attached to them, as well as a list of potentials. Judie indicated that the list is part of every budget on the web site. The current potentials are reported monthly to the Council. The School grants are in the annual financial single audit which is also posted on the web.

Agenda Item III.

Other Business:

Next Meeting items:

- a) Tax Cap discussion - How to raise taxes without removing the Cap?
- b) Setting service priorities

The City will host the Next meeting on Wednesday, November 29th at the City Library 5:30pm. Another meeting will be hosted by the City on February 28th.

Motion to adjourn was made by Deb Brown and seconded by George Dzujna. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Conway
School Board Clerk