

Carver Select Board
& School Committee
Meeting Minutes
Carver Town Hall, 2nd Floor
September 26, 2019 - 7:00pm

In Attendance:

Select Board: Chairman Ronald Clarke, Vice-Chairman Mark Townsend, Robert Belbin, Alan Dunham, Sarah Hewins, Town Administrator Michael Milanoski, Finance Director Meg LaMay & Elaine Weston

School Committee: Chair Andrew Cardarelli, Vice-Chairman Andrew Soliwoda, Jason Greenwood, James O'Brien, Superintendent Scott Knief & Chief Operations & Finance Officer Brad Brothers

Absent: Stephanie Clougherty

School Committee and Select Board opened their meetings

Budget Transfers:

Currently the IT Department has been a shared department for the Town and School for 3 years, as well as the Building and Grounds being Town-wide. The shared Grounds crew are paid by the Town and a journal entry is done by the school. Together with salaries, overtime, clothing allowance and health coverage, the cost moved from the school to the town is \$207,626. It is being requested that this funding be moved permanently from the school budget to the town budget. This would change the percentage split of the budget to 69.688% school and 30.312% town. If approved, this would need to be changed in the Financial Management policy.

Motion to approve by Soliwoda for the School Committee, the budget transfer and the adoption of the new percentage change, second by Greenwood. Vote 4-0

Motion to approve by Dunham for the Select Board, the budget transfer and the adoption of the new percentage change, second by Townsend. Vote 5-0.

Preliminary Update on FY21 Budget:

Solar will create new revenue in the operating budget in the amount of \$312,000. New expenses anticipated in the budget which we have not had in the past is an increase on the pension cost of \$168,000. There are potential ways to mitigate that which are being explored. Chair stated we are in a mandatory pay down of the pension to meet by 2030 and this will add to this which was unexpected. Historically Carver pays less than the average town and Carver ends up subsidizing the richer towns. Clarke met with the Plymouth County Treasurer and was

shown that if the town pays down to a certain amount, we get pulled out of the County amount owed and only need to pay what we owe to the County.

The maximum the town is obligated to pay back for the senior tax relief is \$97,000 whether people use it or not, but that is the liability. The excess does not go into free cash, it goes into the overlay account and the Assessors would have to release that and use it for another purpose. It is possible \$50,000 may be funded for this with not having any history on it.

The Carver, Marion, Wareham Regional Refuse Disposal District revenue will be changing. There is \$177,000 that won't be coming into town due to the amount the haulers pay as well as the amount in sticker fees paid.

LaMay stated the interest income will be reduced due to the bond proceeds from Middle School, High School, Library and Police Station. As the Police Station fund are expended, the amount of interest income on the bond proceeds is reduced. If this revenue is factored into the budget, budget cuts will need to happen.

Brothers stated that Charter School funding is based off of estimates that charter schools send DESE. DESE & the DOR lock the town into the cherry sheet for budgeting. Last year, the town paid approximately \$100,000 less. When the actual numbers come in, they are less and it leaves the town with revenue that can be used in the operational budget.

The current formula has not changed and the town is still responsible for 'hold harmless', however, there is legislation that if it goes thru will be favorable to the School's budget for charter school funding.

Bus transportation for special education is on the school district which is approximately \$400,000 for which a change to this is also currently in legislation. You only have one hour to transport a child and regionalized transportation has not worked due to Carver's geographical location.

Belbin questioned the amount for Technical and Vocational schools that is built into the budget. Last year OCRVT was \$1.2 million and it is anticipated to be \$1.3 million this year.

Dunham stated that the Town does not have a say in the amount that is approved for the funding of the planning addition/remodel of OCRVT. TA stated that the Boards jointly appoint the Carver reps for OCRVT and recommends that they call the reps before them to give regular updates of this.

Belbin questioned what the parking fee was for. Knief stated that the parking fee was updated 3 years ago due to the over \$1 million shortfall, in addition to staff cuts, many fees were looked at to be increased. This fee is specifically used to offset the cost of graduation.

The School Shield Grant for \$23,000 was for school safety. The School purchased radios which are now being used in both buildings.

There are 4 radios which are used for the principal and main office that are directly connected to the Police and Fire department.

The town is working toward a town-wide public safety upgrade in the radios to improve overall communications and bandwidths as well as enough repeaters in the buildings.

The Finance Committee, members of the School Committee and Select Board as well as Steve Pratt are looking into a Sustainability Plan.

Discussion of Fields and Fees:

The Select Board and School Committee have delegated the fees to the Recreation Committee for outdoor fields, excluding the turf. They have done analysis with surrounding communities and Carver has the lowest fees. Funding for the fields was reduced over time due to budget cuts. The fields could not be maintained. The Recreation Committee has instituted a town-wide usage fee with the goal of having a better level of maintenance of the fields.

The new MHS turf field needs to be maintained and replaced in approximately 10 years. The School has agreed to put aside funds for this so it does not need to have separate funding in the future in a dedicated account.

Belbin questioned the fields at the Elementary School. Knief stated that the Elementary School fields are owned by the Contractor, Central Nurseries, until they release the fields to the Town. The Town is not working on those fields due to this. This was phase II of the Elementary School Building project. The deadline for the fields to be turned over is November 15, 2019.

Select Board Motion to adjourn by Townsend, second by Dunham at 8:20pm.

Vote 5-0

School Committee Motion to adjourn by Greenwood, second by O'Brien at 8:20pm.

Vote 4-0