



# TOWN OF CARVER

## Carver Finance Committee

### Town Wide Budget Sustainability Study

108 Main Street  
Carver, MA 02330

Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2019

@ 7:00 PM

Carver Town Hall, Room #4

Present: Alan Germain; Chairman, Members: Elizabeth Sulger, Kevin Sullivan, Stephen Pratt, George Callahan, Patrick Kenneally, and Adam Holmes

Also present: Meg LaMay; Town Finance Director Alan E. Dunham; Select Board Member, Mark Townsend; Select Board Vice Chairman, Andy Cardarelli; School Committee Chairman, Michael Milanoski; Carver Town Administrator, Brad Brothers; Chief operations and Finance Officer, Carver Public Schools, and Kelly DiCarli; Recording Secretary

Potential Member; Pat Meagher

Absent: Kathryn Bandzul; Vice Chairman, Scott E. Knief; Superintendent of Carver Public Schools, and Bill Duggan; Member

#### Committee Objectives and Goals

##### Short Term objective and goal:

Review all the data, understand the data trends, understand Plymouth/Carver's teacher's union contract, forecast those trends and understand the impacts of continuing to do the same thing year over year as a baseline as has occurred in the past.

Once baseline is established then explore options that may exist or could exist to improve baseline over a certain timeline with new initiatives or consolidation in an effort to

##### Long Term objective and goal:

Develop a long-term plan for future financial sustainability in town with and without an operational override.

Meeting Opened: 7:03 P.M.

Meeting Opened:

**A: Pledge of Allegiance**

**B: Meeting will be recorded by Area 58, Public comment**

**C: Town Administrator Update**

Michael Milanoski reviewed the 2020 fiscal year budget for the Town of Carver which should be available by early October. Michael Milanoski forecasted the town appears to be doing better than the year before specifically, The Selectman Office approved \$700,000 for solar projects, staffing structure changes to better serve the town, beginning of the Police Station project which is slated to go out to bid end of September and drawings have been finalized, also the ground breaking Kings property project which started few weeks ago. Michael Milanoski hopeful to get the playground up and running by the end of the year. Michael Milanoski also discussed donations from several business donating materials for the Kings Property to keep this project in budget.

Alan Germain prompted Michael Milanoski to further explain the breakdown of the solar project approval denomination not in the operating budget.

Michael Milanoski responded that the Town of Carver financial policy modified because the tax revenue from the solar projects is considered personal property which depreciates over time. In addition, the town negotiated the tax agreement over 20 years to which the denomination took the average payment and eventually the payments stop

**D: Minutes: The minutes of the June 27<sup>th</sup> 2019 meeting will be read and approved**

Mark Townsend made a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded by Alan E. Dunham. Voted and passed unanimously, 9-0

**E: Continuing discussion from last meeting on presentation from Stephen Pratt**

Stephen Pratt summarized his presentation from that last meeting and was able to reflect the new growth Carver has had over the past 20 years.

- Carver has \$340 million dollars in new growth; to which \$180 million is stemming from residential \$160 million is stemming from commercial and industrial businesses.
- Carver has 11% in residential tax levy which is the 19<sup>th</sup> highest rate in the state.
- The more we can assess personal property value growth will increase tax levy. In addition, Carver uses the prior tax rate for the tax levy for the future year.

Alan Germain inquired how does Carver keep going with continued financial growth?

Stephen Pratt re-iterated that the town of Carver needs to do a better job identifying personal property that needs to be assessed

Michael Milanoski noted that 4 million dollars businesses valuation was not being assessed in the town, this was caused by staffing issues. This issue was reviewed and the appropriate measures and actions were taken place.

Stephen Pratt transitioned his discussion to the School Department which affects the town's financial growth

- There are 3,400 non-manufactured residences in Carver, which equates to .5 students of 3,400 homes.
- More than half the homes in Carver are not sending students to The Carver School

Pertaining to the Financial Committee: Town Wide Budget Sustainability Study objective; Alan Germain notably elucidated ways to make the School Department and the Financial Committee work collaboratively regarding the infrastructure of the town budget.

The Committee Members discussed the comparisons of different towns regarding regional funding and bus transportation. It was discussed owning versus renting buses (contracting transportation).

Brad Brothers reviewed Chapter 70 funding as it pertains to Carver school enrollment and school transportation. He also reviewed that Carver owns its own bus service and Carver pays \$373.00 per bus per day and runs 15 buses (not including vans or buses for sports events). However, this amount included late buses. To note, the State average (from a list of responding districts) in the fiscal year 2020 is \$407.00 per bus per day. In addition, Brad noted that Carver bought a new bus in 2019 and possible 2 more buses next year. The goal is a new 4 new buses every 3 years. (based on capital). Brad also noted that Carver consolidated bus routes from 16 to 14 (15 to 13) routes. (streets with cul-de-sacs were prompted to wait for bus at the top of street.)

Stephen Pratt reviewed ideas to focus and maximize new growth for the town

1. Split tax rate- not have less 1.25 on commercial because it increases tax levy.
2. Request Senator Pacheco and Rep Susan Gifford to attend and talk about chapter 140 and chapter 70; ensure the town does not financially hurt current residence and possibly having more affordable homes (ie mobile homes). Stephen Pratt noted that 25% homes are manufactured homes.

The Committee Members agreed to have Mark Townsend to reach out to Susan Gifford and Alan Germain will reach out to Senator Marc R. Pacheco to explore further of Chapter 140 and Chapter 70 and how this specifically affects the Town of Carver.

Alan Germain requested that Alan E. Dunham; Selectman, Mark Townsend; Selectman, Andy Cardarelli; School Committee, and Brad Brothers; Chief operations and Finance Officer, Carver Public Schools be dismissed from the remaining Finance Committee Meeting.

F: Next meeting date and time:

1. Regular Finance Committee Meeting: Thursday, September 12, 2019 at 7 P.M. – Cancelled
2. Town wide sustainability study meeting: Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 7 P.M.

G: Reserve funds transfer request from Meg LaMay

Meg LaMay seeking 3 (three) request for transfer from the reserve fund

1. Amount: \$18,450- The Financial Department for the town hired and met with a consultant to organize and structure the Assessors department. Because additional professional services and re-organization needs to continue, the towns consultant contract will be extended for the fiscal year 2020. The assessor office is in transition toward greater structure requiring additional training and the cost from the consultant not foreseen when the fiscal year 2020 budget was drawn up.

Adam Holmes made a motion to grant Meg LaMay the reserve fund transfer request for \$18,450. Seconded by George Callahan. Voted and passed unanimously, 7-0

2. Amount: \$17,050 – This request is to update the towns mapping system. This map is located outside of the town hall office which impacts the 911 system. The mapping system hasn't been updated in the last 3 (three) system despite multiple request and reminders from the state which were ignored by the Principal Assessor. Usually the cost for system mapping update is \$3,500 or \$4,500 per year. This cost was not foreseen when the fiscal year 2020 budget was drawn up.

Adam Holmes made a motion to grant Meg LaMay the reserve fund transfer request for \$17,050. Seconded by George Callahan. Voted and passed unanimously, 7-0

3. Amount: \$6,399.35 –This request is for software update for the Accounting office. The accounting office had limited software license on the server, limited number of users, and the server kept crashing. When attempting to remedy the problem, IT suggested upgrading to the cloud as the solution. This cost was not foreseen when the fiscal year 2020 budget was drawn up.

Adam Holmes made a motion to grant Meg LaMay the reserve fund transfer request for \$6,399.35. Seconded by George Callahan. Voted and passed unanimously, 7-0

H: Chairman update and/or Committee member comments. – Alan Germain reminded the Finance Committee Members of the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) fall legislative breakfast series on October 14, 2019

No other comments from committee members.

I: Adjournment: George Callahan made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Adam Holmes. Voted and passed unanimously, 9-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kelly DiCarli