

Boylston Finance Committee Meeting
March 20, 2023

Attendees: Eric Brose, Dave Butler, Karen McGahie, Steph Miczek, Howard Drobner

Discussion:

- General
 - Based on the updated request from the schools, tax impact would rise to ~5.7%
 - Plan to allocate money from the ambulance reserve fund to cover the billing fee
 - Construction documents/continued work on plans for combined police, fire, and senior center on hold. Free cash that was planned to go toward this can be reallocated to the down payment on the new fire truck.
 - Town meeting with dispatchers later this week; hoping negotiations will wrap up then
 - Negotiations with police still ongoing, not expected to wrap up this week.
 - Town connecting with company completing the wage study at the end of the week; likely too late for any findings to be incorporated into this years budget
 - Near final review of budget; finalized numbers where there were open questions from last meeting (treasurer, town clerk, inspectors, highway, library, parks & rec, police, fire and dispatch where possible)
- Near Final budget with updated request from the school committee shows a tax rate increase of 5.75% increase, compared to the approximately 4% increase based on the budget presented to FinCom on March 6th.
- With the expectation that the school committee will continue to move forward with the school committee approved budget from March 18, and what would be included, by law, in the warrant article for the town budget, the Finance Committee voted its intention to vote against the town's budget on town meeting floor and propose a reduction to school budget figures, reducing them back to the figures presented on March 6.
- The split for the schools is 65.3% for Boylston as of March, 2023 for the operating assessment and 65.71% for the capital assessment. Slightly different numbers.