

**Hingham School Committee
Joint BOS/ADCOM**

February 9, 2021

7:00 PM

Remote meeting via Zoom:

Dial-in number: 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 451-213-735

Passcode: 111222

Website: <https://zoom.us/join>

1. Call to Order.

The school Committee was called to order at 7:02 PM.

2. To attend and participate in a joint session with the Board of Selectmen and Advisory Committee.

Town Administrator Tom Mayo reviewed the fiscal year 2020-21 plan adopted in response to the pandemic and 2nd Quarter results; with a projected \$1.2M Surplus, about \$2M of the \$3.3M appropriated at Town Meeting to balance the budget could be returned.

- a) Property tax collection coming in on target
 - The state funds are expected to be in full
 - Short falls are projected in motor vehicle excise taxes; meals tax, ambulance fees; and investment income.

- b) expenditures
 - Capital Outlay is on target
 - CARES Act reimbursement requests will be \$3.6M total (submitted \$2.2M to date; \$1.4M to be requested for reimbursement by Dec.)

Tier 2 cuts in services have not been triggered.

3) Tom Mayo presented the FY 21-22 annual forecast

Revenues = \$130M:

- Tax Levy at 2 ½%
- Senior abatement program in place
- state aid lower than last year because payment from MSBA for the middle school have stopped but so have the related expenses
- Local receipts are down (motor vehicle, ambulance, investment income, meals tax)
- Revenue growth has dropped because of decrease in commercial activity

Expenses = \$137M :

- \$30M town
- \$62M school
- Public Works
- Health Insurance (town, school, retiree)
- OPEB
- Retirement (town, current employees)

Deficit = \$7M

Mary Power explained that a \$10,000 average tax bill rises by about \$270/year. An override for \$7M would add an additional \$800. But discussions regarding balancing the budget will include a combination of Fund Balance, revenue opportunities, expense control, and override.

Questions from the AdCom included investment strategy; Country Club and Weir River; excess overlay; employee benefits; and recreation fields

Questions from the School Committee included the potential for the school budget to go up; the model to assess tax payer impact from an override and debt exclusion; amount in Fund Balance; the Overlay Account which is used by Board of Assessors to pay for abatement requests.

Questions and Comments from the Public ensued.

M. Power advised that the BOS is considering scheduling Town Meeting in early May, which will dictate when warrant articles need to be finalized and voted on by BOS.

4) Vote on feasibility study for Foster School building

John Ferris explained that the MSBA invited us in December into the Feasibility Study. The vote tonight will authorize the chair to sign an official Agreement that spells out next steps and regulations to be followed by Hingham. On a motion made by B.Ramsey to execute the MSBA Feasibility Study and seconded by J.Fisher the chair was authorized to sign the agreement.

5. On a motion made by M.Ayer and seconded by L.O'Reilly it was voted to adjourn the School Committee at 8:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Libby Lewiecki, School Committee Secretary