



The Board discussed the budget process and the upcoming priorities for annual town meeting and special town meeting. Mr. Morgan stated the expected date for the special town meeting was May 13, 2019. The Board continued to discuss the mental health and social services additional funding request and the best time to bring it before the Town.

Ms. Strother recommended the mental health and social services budget be presented as its own department within the health department. She reviewed how the budget could be set up and what line items would need to be included. The Board agreed to have staff set up a separate budget for the funding of the mental health and social services positions.

Mr. Morgan stated that the Town is required to submit a balanced budget and reviewed the budget proposed by the schools that remained 3.71% which was above guideline. He noted the Board had asked schools to reconsider their submission but did not believe it would be revised by the school department before the Advisory meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Board discussed different scenarios for presenting the budget to Advisory given the current proposal from the schools. The Board discussed the schools proposed budget and discussions the Board had with the school committee regarding their budget. Ms. Freiman noted that the past several years the schools budget was under 3.5% and included additional unknown reserves for SPED that is not included in the current proposal. She noted additional considerations including declining enrollment and stated she was not supportive of the current school budget given that there had been no reductions to it after multiple discussions. She stated that the request includes 13 new staff members that would impact benefit expenditures. The Board continued to discuss the budget proposal from schools and how to move forward with the budget process. The Board agreed that it would not support the current proposed school budget

**Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Ms. Freiman, the Board voted (5-0) to support the addition of \$160,000 to the mental health budget to be divided between personnel services and expenses for the FY20 Budget and that \$20,000 of the \$160,000 be allocated to benefits.**

**Upon a motion by Ms. Freiman and seconded by Mr. Ulfelder, the Board voted (5-0) to approve a budget as presented by Ms. Strother with the adjustments of \$160,000 for mental health services previously voted and with a reduction in the schools spending to a 3.5% increase over last year**

#### **4. Discuss and finalize draft Town Wide Financial Plan**

Mr. Morgan stated the latest draft of the town wide financial plan included additional comments and edits from the Board. Ms. Strother reviewed some of the more significant changes to the most recent version. Mr. Morgan added the schedule on projected debt exclusions had been reviewed to include a provision for swing space costs and potential funding for a design phase for a Cameron Street lot project. The Board discussed the current draft. Mr. Morgan noted there would be additional edits to be included. The Board discussed the approval of the draft and submission to Advisory process.

**Upon a motion by Ms. Gibbs and seconded by Ms. Freiman, the Board voted (5-0) to approve the Town-wide Financial Plan and delegate the Chair and Vice Chair to make any final amendments and execute the document on behalf of the Board.**

#### **5. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 pm.