



The Board discussed the revenue assumptions. Mr. Morgan noted he thought it likely the Town will have a strong financial year again this year and recommended an increase in the new growth assumption and the building permit assumptions.

Ms. Strother reviewed the revenue trends including higher returns on investments, higher than anticipated increases in licenses and permit fees, and a reduction in health care expenses. Ms. Strother noted the Town received a onetime payment of \$1 million for the Wellesley College Science Center building permit and has seen a positive migration to the high deductible insurance plans. Ms. Strother reviewed this year's turnback and reviewed her FY21 assumptions on turnback and anticipated local receipts.

The Board discussed what types of information they would need to consider guidelines this year. With regards to the School Department, the Board asked to see the cost break down of General Education and SPED, a report on the employee turnover, and any proposed FY21 positions. The Board raised concerns over the retention of School Department turnback for Circuit Breaker and the Board noted the Circuit Breaker funds should be expended prior to any spending within the SPED stabilization fund. The Board asked for an accounting of the funds currently in Circuit Breaker.

The Board discussed the impact of the numerous development projects on the budget and the timing of building permits, 40R payments, and potential staffing needs. Ms. Jop and Ms. Strother noted they would review the timing of the projects and try to anticipate whether the financial payments will occur this fiscal year (FY20) or next fiscal year (FY21).

The Board discussed potential uses of free cash including the pros and cons of using funds for Internal Swing Space if the Hunnewell School project moves forward as well as other projects in the future.

The Board discussed the impact of a debt exclusion vote on the Hunnewell School Schematic Design Funds and whether there could be a potential impact to setting the tax rate mid-December. The Board discussed bringing the \$5 million project inside the levy.

The Board discussed the operating budget ratios between the Town and School and suggested several financial models for review at the September 9, 2019 meeting to assist the Board's discussion on setting the FY 21 Budget Guidelines.

#### **6. Discuss Inter-Board Meeting**

The Board briefly discussed the format and presentations they would like for the September 19, 2019 Inter-Board meeting.

#### **7. Discuss Work Plan and Liaison Updates**

The Board reviewed and updated liaison assignments on the FY20 Work Plan.

#### **8. Discuss Indigenous People's Day Process**

The Board discussed next steps on the Indigenous People's Day process. The Board discussed whether a non-binding referendum question on the Annual Town Election Ballot was appropriate. After a brief discussion, the Board was divided on whether to proceed with a ballot question. Ms. Olney asked whether the Board would want to proceed with making the decision for the Town. The majority of the Board indicated they did not find the Board to be the appropriate decision making body and wanted the Town's legislative body to make the decision for the Town. Ms. Freiman suggested the Board work to facilitate a neutral panel discussion to support education of the public on the various positions for and against the change. The Board suggested working with the League of Women Voters. The Board discussed asking World of Wellesley to return to Annual Town Meeting with a Citizen's Petition.

**9. Discuss Almira Simons Fund**

Ms. Freiman described the Almira Simons Fund, which is a trust fund created to assist elderly in financial need. Bank of America is the current Trustee for the funds and currently works with the Council on Aging on the distribution of funds. Over the past several years, the distribution of the funds has become co-mingled with the Friends of the Wellesley COA efforts. The Board discussed different strategies to insure the funds are used as intended. The Board asked Ms. Sullivan Woods to discuss how to improve the distribution of funds with Bank of America and the COA. It was recommended that a secondary signatory be used, and the Elder Affairs Officer was a consideration.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 pm.