



TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH

BLF Minutes

Boxborough, MA 01719

Reviewed and approved at February 7, 2023 meeting of the BLF

BOARD/COMMITTEE: Boxborough Leadership Forum (BLF)

DATE: Wednesday, January 25, 2023

TIME: 7:00PM

PLACE: Town Hall and zoom

In attendance:

Becky Neville, Maria Neyland, Gary Kushner, Tessa McKinley, John Markiewicz, Dennis Reip, Rajon Hudson, Kathleen Vorce

Missing:

Other:

Meeting called to order by the Chair at 7:00 PM; minutes taken by Gary Kushner, Finance Committee

SB updates:

The SB is working on setting priorities for Town Administrator and the SB including ARPA funds and the intermunicipal water agreement with Littleton. The FBI is not considering any actions against Chief Ryder. Becky Neville did a records request for the SB regarding PI, but could not find any mention of the action by the SB for the PI.

Planning Board by Kathleen

Mark Barbadoro sent a note earlier in the day regarding the roadways at Loring and Joyce. The development was a 40B project. There is a matter of disagreement regarding the lawsuit over the developer and if it was Summerfield or Loring/Joyce. The planning board requested 13 items which the owners completed, but since then the road has aged. It is unclear if the developer approached the town for acceptance. There is a signed document by the ZBA. John Markiewicz commented on Reed Farm Road and its issues. Eventually the Town fixed the road. Kathleen commented on zoning potentially moving to a Fall Town meeting. At the last BLF (November) there was discussion about moving zoning to special (Fall) town meeting by the planning Board, but Kathleen was not aware of this request. Another option is moving zoning earlier in the ATM.



Finance

A warrant review occurred on January 23. Budget discussions underway with a goal to get the increase under 5%. Education as a whole is a big increase. Article 5 report by the FinCom will include coverage including the vocational school and the district. Capital Saturday is planned for February 4. Library came to FinCom meeting on 24th. Fire, sustainability and schools are coming to future meetings of the FinCom in February. Reserve fund is being hit hard including about \$12,000 for fire/police dept for an electrical issue and potentially \$7,500 for Library. Legal fees are unknown, but coming. Starting May 1 we can start utilizing interdepartmental transfers. Financial policies are in process with some owned by FinCom and others by the SB/TA but they will be combined into one financial policy. Discussion on the lawsuit against the developer resulted in \$1.2M under the control of the Housing trust

School

2.3% increase to the school resulting in a 5.3% to Boxborough due to the student population. Teachers are being impacted. Library assistants were on the chopping block along with Media at HS and HS counselor, but retirements and teachers leaving could restore some or all of the positions.

School building

There is an article to talk about remaining funds as requested by Dave Verdolino. Eversource permitting delayed. Asking if the administration is reaching out to our reps (Dan Sena and Acton Rep) and senators Eldridge.

Discussion on attendance and lack of rep from school (1), planning board (1), SB (1), FinCom (3). The members in attendance believe that in person is best, but that BLF is important in communicating to the departments/groups.

Next meeting after the warrant closes on March 13 so the next meeting is March 14 at 7PM to include ARPA funds, warrant articles. John Markiewicz is suggesting, some of the ARPA funds from Boxborough be used for Blanchard. Unclear if this can be controlled. The Boxborough share was a percentage based on the Acton percentage.

Maria moved to Adjourn and Becky seconded
Adjourned at 7:46PM