

Town of Brookline
Advisory Committee Minutes

June 10, 2020

Present Remotely: Vice-Chair Carla Benka, Ben Birnbaum, Harry Bohrs, Clifford Brown, John Doggett, Dennis Doughty, Harry Friedman, Janet Gelbart, David-Marc Goldstein, Neil Gordon, Susan Granoff, Amy Hummel, Alisa Jonas, Janice Kahn, Steve Kanes, Bobbie Knable, David Lescohier, Carol Levin, Fred Levitan, Pam Lodish, Donelle O’Neal, Carlos Ridruejo, Chair Michael Sandman, Lee Selwyn, Kim Smith, Claire Stampfer, Charles Swartz, Paul Warren, Christine Westphal, Neil Wishinsky

Also present: Melissa Goff, MaryEllen Normen, Ben Lummis, Helen Charlupski, Suzanne Federspeil, David Geanakakis, Mark Gray Jr., Clint Richmond, Mark Levy, Ana Albuquerque, Jules Milner-Brage, Richard Nangle, Hugh Joseph, Jane Flanagan, Robin Levine, Rubin Pfeffer, Teena Bos, Sharon Abromowitz, R Belhocine, Bonnie Rottenberg, Kristine Knauf, Nathan Shpritz, Paul Saner, Jeffrey Benson, Ken Levine, Mike Toffel, and possibly other members of the public.

Announcements: Pursuant to this Board’s Authority under 940 CMR 29.10 (8), all Advisory Committee Members will be participating remotely via telephone or video conferencing due to emergency regulations regarding the Corona virus.

The Chair has reviewed the requirements of the regulations. There is a quorum physically present and all votes taken will be recorded by roll call so all above listed Advisory Committee members will be allowed to vote.

AGENDA

6:30 PM Advisory Committee Public Hearing

1. Warrant Article 16: to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell parcels of land located at 15-19 Oak Street, Brookline, Massachusetts.

Janice Kahn presented the article as the petitioner. Originally the purpose was to use as potential expansion of Baldwin School. Voters rejected the override for that so stated purpose for purchasing the properties is no longer relevant. Authorize the Select Board to sell it, potentially recoup initial expense, and it will come back as new growth. Costing us to hold to these properties and funds could be better spent elsewhere. Spoke to Chief Procurement Officer – 6 weeks from advertising to getting buyers. Associate Town Counsel 2-4 weeks for P&S and another 4 weeks to close. Three to four months to sell each townhouse. Market conditions – seller’s market now so need for housing on the market. Better to give authority to Select Board now, can exercise it whenever and will be their prerogative.

Discussion

Ben Lummis said there is no recent discussion by the School Committee. They advocated at last Town Meeting holding on to those properties.

Helen Charlupski suggested numbers are a bit skewed based on properties that are built on versus properties that don’t have something built on them. Every time we give up a property we are sorry about it afterward. If we have already purchased the property, basically the rents assuming they are still rented out – Could have made money if we rented out at market value.

One owner has moved out and no one is paying rent so there is no revenue.

Cliff: In favor of this action last fall, opposed to bringing this to Town Meeting at this point in time, but changed opinion about giving Select Board opportunity to sell as needed. The market factors creating an opportunity are one reason for this change. The problem with renting if considering selling you have tenant who gets to stay there for the length of their lease. This hamstring the Town. From a fiscal perspective it makes sense to give the Select Board the opportunity to explore the market to dispose of the assets.

Carol: Thank Janice for her analysis and presentation. Two ways – reactive or thoughtful and have a plan. Though we had a plan that led us to these properties, it no longer exists and we need to prioritize other land acquisitions to benefit the Town. There are other priorities that trump Oak Street and those merit putting these up for sale.

Neil: We didn't buy this as an investment property but for a specific purpose and that purpose no longer exists. Is the School Department willing to use a piece of its budget to cover carrying costs? Leverage the money that would better fit our interests.

Carlos: Zoned as residential and to change use, to do a tennis court without a building, you would have to change the zoning. Anytime you change zoning and you open yourself up to litigation. Renovation to make it into offices was too costly, and AirBnB is still illegal in Brookline. Not a lot of options to use this other than what it is presently used for.

John: In agreement with Cliff on numbers, and Neil on optics.

Christine: In favor of selling this property but a bit problematic. Seems the Town doesn't keep up the property to the extent required by the neighborhood. If we do end up keeping it, turn it into affordable housing. Much better use to sell it and put it back into the tax base.

Q: What if we leased it as opposed to sold it, what is the value to the Town? A: Likely to be it depends on lease rates the Town would be able to get then maintenance costs. We have not been making money based on rents we have been charging. Clearly under market – getting tenants, keeping them in, that is essentially a business. Do you want to be doing this with the Town's money and the personnel that are allocated to maintain these from a landlord's perspective? Rents for houses owned by the town and leased go into a revolving fund and those monies are then used to maintain the properties.

Photos of Oak Street shared – mold and mildew, the Town is not taking care of the property and not prepared to take care of it and recommend getting rid of it. Keep old Driscoll intact and use it as swing space.

Clint Richmond – TMM Precinct 6 – Below is written comments shared with the full Advisory Committee:
“Dear Advisory Committee:

Embedded in our Open Space Plan, is the requirement that there should be no net loss of open space. I think this concept should be extended to all town space both open and built (and possibly easements for that matter). We have already sold off so much highly usable space such as the former Town Garage in the Point, and the old Town reservoir on Fisher Hill. It is almost impossible to acquire space in Brookline. For example, Fisher Hill Reservoir in 2011 was an 8-year process. We should not be authorizing any potential sales without a concrete plan to acquire offsetting space.

The Oak Street property is small but extremely rare and valuable to the Town because it are adjacent to both a school and a park. With no plan for realizing the Land Bank that could acquire such land, holding on to this unrestricted property makes even more sense.

A simple outright sale is financially unwise. And as we learned in the Webster Street hotel project in Coolidge Corner on a former Town Parking Lot, a 99-year-lease has a higher financial return than a straight sale, while at the same time preserving long-term options that simply cannot be foreseen today.

These buildings could be renovated in the near term for school department office space - space is needed more than ever with COVID. Or the townhouses could immediately become affordable housing as is (e.g., Section 8, where the rents for 3-bedrooms have recently gone up to I believe \$3168/month) and increase our Subsidized Housing Inventory. The BHA has no townhouses in its housing stock so it would fill a new niche in their offerings. With the recession, affordable housing is needed more than ever. And housing with a separate entrance is safer under COVID.

For all these reasons, please vote No Action on this article.”

Concern that this is being done late in the game and not every relevant party will have time to speak about it before we bring it to Town Meeting. Oak Street while not part of any plan is extremely rare and valuable for the Town to acquire land adjacent to a School and a park. Consider looking into a long-term lease. There are options – office space and subsidized housing. Increase our affordable housing inventory. These are townhouses and we don't have anything like that within our BHA inventory.

Deborah Brown – we don't have Newbury College and I hope we get it. We keep an asset that is a good asset. In favor 1) it is unique and 2) it falls within a greater scheme for this Town than not. Our greatest design in this community is about schools and part of the secret is that piece of property was about schools. Our second big need is housing and that has been said most recently loud and clear. We need affordable housing and this may be able to fill part of that gap and granted it may be expensive – the Town doesn't have to be the landlord. The Town has transferred real estate assets for years – HAB, BHA, etc. so I wouldn't let the fact that this is sitting out there and the Town owns it be the leveling factor. What about the families that make \$100K? This is part of that fix – people who make enough money to afford to pay rent here or kids with 2-3 kids but also people who can't afford to buy and willing to walk a good pace to get to that T stop or ride their bikes. Let's not cut off this opportunity here. Not lots of money to be made but I think practically, and symbolically we send a good message to Brookline. Let's keep the property in Brookline.

Amy: This is still controversial – last fall and still today. I am generally opposed to discussing it at this Town Meeting but maybe in November. At this late date, believe this is a second bite at an apple in an opportune moment. Would like to hear what Planning has to say and give them time to consider it and also allow the Schools to have another chance to say how to use it.

Mark Levy: Only authorizing the Select Board to act – I would love to have that turned into affordable housing unless we give SB to explore opportunities I don't see how we would get there. School Committee wants to hold onto the asset for their use without a direct plan, miserly. Past performance does not indicate future performance. We don't do a good job maintaining properties in this Town. Don't like us being in this business. Would like Housing Authority to get their hands on it. Open up the door to Planning, counter proposals, selling to Housing Authority or someone wants to live there and maintain it on their old. Holding on with no plan or no incentive as to what plans are available is poor policy.

Hugh Joseph – comments in the chat.

David-Marc: This is not our motion we are reacting to the fact that some Town Meeting Member will put this on the floor. We are not trying to rush it through. Our intention is to discuss it and give a recommendation to Town

Meeting. There is quite a number of TMM who want to get rid of it, so we are trying to react to a motion they will have to vote and have a recommendation for them.

Lee: If we didn't own it and it was offered to us and the only uses were unspecified as to what and to when, no one would even discuss the idea of buying it. Don't have a use for it, don't know when or how we might use it, the use it was purchased for is no longer valid. If we wouldn't buy it, we should be selling it.

This article was thoroughly vetted and even voted upon by Town Meeting last fall. Nothing has changed except the financial position of the town, that is now more dire. This article didn't come out of the blue and is not "late in the game." If the townhouses are turned into affordable housing, then given the purchase price of the properties by the town, that's a lot of money to spend on three units of housing.

A **MOTION** was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell parcels of land located at 15-19 Oak Street, Brookline, Massachusetts. By a roll-call **VOTE** of 24-0-3 of the Advisory Committee, the motion passes.

2. Warrant Article 4: to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Comptroller to close out either all or a portion of the unexpended balances in certain Special Appropriations and return such sums to the Surplus Revenue accounts and rescind the unused portion of prior borrowing authorizations

A **MOTION** was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Comptroller to close out either all or a portion of the unexpended balances in certain Special Appropriations and return such sums to the Surplus Revenue accounts and rescind the unused portion of prior borrowing authorizations. By a roll-call **VOTE** of 28-0-0 of the Advisory Committee, the motion passes.

6:45 PM Advisory Committee Public Meeting

1. Discussion and vote on Warrant Article 16

A **MOTION** was made and second for favorable action on ARTICLE 16. By a roll call vote of 24-0-3 the motion passes.

2. Discussion and vote on Warrant Article 4

A **MOTION** was made and second for NO ACTION on ARTICLE 4. By a unanimous roll call vote of 28-0-0 the motion passes.

3. Further discussion and possible vote on WA 8, including Conditions of Appropriations (FY 21 Operating budget and Special Appropriations/CIP)

Questions and Comments

Fred: Trash fees question – rate 75% coverage for fee, 25% for subsidy. 100% trash fees going to DPW.

Harry: Reducing police budget from Harry F. – possibly something might be proposed by a TMM and how do we prepare for that? Something we might expect.

Amy: Suggests that it may be to take a certain amount out of the budget – hold it out, until the Police Department negotiates body cameras and figures out how to purchase them.

Carla: We need to get our recommended budget out to allow people time to respond to it. We haven't seen any amendment because people don't know what the proposed FY 21 budget looks like. We need to vote a budget, Select Board votes its budget and then we can discuss reconciliation. If we don't vote a budget, we can't release anything and gives too little time for the public to digest it and comment.

Neil G: Marty Rosenthal and he are working on condition of appropriate but not a change of dollar amount – will make text available soon. Purchase or acquisition of riot gear would require approval by Select Board after a public hearing.

Amy: Military type equipment study committee – catalog this and have civilian oversight – appeal to people who are interested in this discussion and material but is critically important. Go to Town Calendar and you can find the meeting listed and there will be a Webex link.

Sandy will not allow budget amendments from the floor. We will have 24 hours in advance before it comes before Town Meeting.

Paul Warren gave an overview of the Schools Subcommittee discussion on June 3 and 8 during public hearings and meetings details of which can be found in their report at the end of these minutes.

The Schools Subcommittee RECOMMENDATION ***

A **MOTION** was made and seconded to recommend favorable action for \$118,998,990 to be appropriated for the FY21 School Budget. The Subcommittee voted unanimously 5-0.

*** Subsequent to the public hearing and public meeting and the drafting of this report, the School Committee indicated that it has received additional guidance from DESE on class sizes required for the re-opening the schools.

Ben Lummis gave a presentation (see attached at the end of these minutes).

Questions and Discussion

Suzanne Federspiel – School Committee Chair-Elect:

We have been working hard on this for months, trying to create the smallest amount of reduction and don't want to impact the classroom more than we need to; hope to bring everyone back, seniority is an issue we work on with the union, attrition rates, retirement or relocation so we want to back fill those positions with existing people. There has been a great deal of work with HR and trying to do this as quickly as possible. Recognize the stress on people and am trying to get information to teachers as soon as we can. Big conversation about BEEP tomorrow. Thanks to School Subcommittee and Paul's summation.

Ben Lummis: Tomorrow's meeting will include more information about BEEP. No more than 12 humans in one classroom – so this will be a cut in enrollment depending on number of classrooms we open. Except for additional expenses related to COVID, we think BEEP can be done at nearly balanced budget.

Suzanne: We don't know what the COVID-19 costs will be but will go back to the Town in November once we know about State and Federal funding supports.

Cliff, Chair of the Schools Subcommittee, thanked MaryEllen, Ben, and Suzanne for their responsiveness to questions.

Q: Temporary classroom? A: Shifts of students, kids are in school in class, some are outside and then a shift or rotation. Dividing a class into thirds. Can't predict – K- 12 preparing and ordering supplies.

Q: Complaint filed by BEU with Dept. of Labor – what does it involve, risks, etc. A: First I have heard of it. Not having read it I don't know what it is claiming. Not an unusual practice.

Q: Salary increases used to deal with the budget, and perspective on whether or not that is going to be a permanent savings or a deferral? A: Any other year that would be a decision that has far reaching discussion and debate – and rare; given what we are facing now it is a reasonable decision, good and wise. New School Committee the folks will push hard on this and will they hold fast? Difficult but solid.

Q: How will the School Committee address concerns of teachers in high-risk groups returning to classrooms? Have you come up with policies? A: And students also who have compromised immunity or families or staff who are uncertain about a healthy environment – what we do know is that people can do remote work and that is an advantage; but we haven't taken into account new situations – we have experts in the health sector who can advise us but no specific plans to address specific situations.. There is a great deal of work being done.

Has there even been a poll among staff, or students, or families about who cannot come back? A: No we haven't had time yet.

Running a risk if there is no plan in place before the school year begins.

Q: Moving on-line is there anything in budget that supports students who don't have resources, insuring internet connectivity and laptops? Working with Housing Authority to make sure they have internet connectivity? If doing rotation, will we make sure vulnerable students get more attention? A: Chrome Books were given to whoever needed them, few families that did not have internet but we did provide hot spots for those who did need it. Staff did incredible work reaching out to students and families.

Q: Rescinding layoffs, are we leaving enough room to make adjustments going forward? Startling for 300 notices but budget crisis is still here, rescinding what is the message and what are we saying? A: The strategy is to use staff we have –next year a paraprofessional, language teacher or BEEP teacher is needed, may staff take on another role?Can we work with people who are not being utilized fully and have them support more directly around a specific issue/topic. Need flexibility by working with the unions that will allow us to utilize the staff in a variety of ways.

We sent notices now rescinding - what message are we sending?

Q: Concerns and fear from parents – as of right now, what is the total number of layoffs and how many are teachers as of right now? A: Clarification: No one has been laid off as of right now. Doesn't take away anxiety and fear...on Friday we explained the budget and bringing people back as soon as we could – communication to staff and public – bringing people back. Later this week, progress update and be clear working on professional status teachers and then move to pre-professional status teachers and almost all should be cleared up by next week. We can't do it any faster than that and nor should anyone expect us to.

Comment: Ben will be with us for 3 weeks, then moving to Gloucester so congratulations and thank you for your service to Brookline. Recognize elephant in the room, the whole notion of having funds available to deal with impacts of COVID and opening of the schools – needs to be money in the budget in September – we don't know how much, what it will be used for or which departments, but need to create a pool to be used for this purpose. Would like to state my proposals and would like Melissa and Mel to react and give us their comments before we vote.

Ben: Especially with the Schools, they are because of proximity of people in small spaces are potentially a health risk to the rest of the Town and we take your comments to heart. There is a real risk to Town if we can't do Schools in a safe way.

Q: With daycare centers and guidance from the State hardly know how to operate. We have special needs requirements in BEEP so given that and the number of people that can be in a room, how can this program if the current structure remains the same, how can it run at break even? A: Operating and revolving fund work together – daycares work solely on tuition, but we have a history of operating and revolving the math can work depending on what the School Committee decides. If we go fully remote with BEEP – maintaining staff but not charging tuition, that is where we run into danger.

Parents used BEEP as day care but if parents are no longer working remotely, they will need the service.

Lee: How many contact hours does a K-8 kid have each week once remote learning began? Did it vary by grade and how did it compare with High School kids? Do you need to continue a complete learning environment in the fall what have you learned and what will you implement? And new math curriculum – 3rd time the School Department has mentioned this – with all things going on why do you feel compelled to do it this year and if deferred, are there any budget savings?

Contact Hours varied by grade, subject area, school and teacher – up to teachers in large part. In K-5 is a single teacher and as you go up there are multiple teachers. State requirement was half a day of learning but not necessarily contact time. There were individual contact, small groups, and whole class. All three happened but how much each teacher did of all three varied. What we have learned is that schedule matters. The value of small groups, unlike college where it can be lectures online, it doesn't work – shorter check ins with whole groups but longer check ins with small groups are effective. Insuring utilizing all staff fully and weren't able to do that on the fly as we shifted at this year. Also need more interaction. This is the first new math curriculum in K-8 in ten years.

Dennis: A note about unfair labor complaint. Once we have researched it, we will get back to you.

Carlos: Struggles with 2nd grader and online learning but thanks to the teachers dealing with these difficult times. How would lunch be organized and what are the space limitations? A: Not at that level of detail yes there will be spacing issues in the cafeterias, eating in classrooms. May not be additional costs since current staff can accommodate this. Thoughts off the top of my head as opposed to concrete plans.

Susan: How are you planning for COVID related strategies – know you are waiting for State guidelines, but is anyone tallying up costs associated with masks, reconfiguring bathrooms, or room set asides, or lunchroom related issues anyone calculating these costs? A: We are going for guidance for DESE – thermometers, masks, plexiglass, non-touch door openers, unit cost for cleaning supplies - we don't know yet about group purchasing by the state or the town so we don't know of changes in those costs. No projections just yet but do expect to turn to that in the next week or so. We know the budget and then need to factor in these other costs and reimbursement from CARES or other acts.

Q: Will we have this information before Town Meeting? A: We will aim for that and share with Town Meeting depending on what we know.

Suggestion to wait on the School Budget until their meeting Thursday, recommend we line up all of the pieces and put them together before putting this to a final vote.

The Chair acknowledged the hard work of the School Committee in doing this budget work and offered the Advisory Committee's thanks.

Neil Wishinsky's proposal may also depend on what comes out of the CIP but the basic idea is there needs to be cash available for the beginning of September for COVID related expenses. Now is not the time to lock up funds - OPEBs or Stabilization. Continue to contribute to \$1M to Stabilization (MEL) recommend it goes to the AC Reserve Fund and with OPEBs we contribute X and hold back X.

Put the money in the AC Reserve Fund but Town Meeting might not go for it. Alternative is not to appropriate it and just have it available in November.

\$4.8 Million in the AC Reserve Fund which could help us with September School openings. It is available for appropriation next year as long as DOR certifies it November 1 we would have it for November 20 Town Meeting.

Is there a way to make sure this is accurate?

The question we should pose to Melissa – the question is when the State is able to certify the funds- so if they can't certify till middle of December or January it limits our use at the November Town Meeting.

So is there another way to put in it the Advisory Committee fund – or explain to Town Meeting the necessity for putting it in the Reserve Fund.

Can you put a condition of appropriation around a portion to assuage Town concerns, or create a separate bucket? Isn't the alternative bucket the Stabilization Fund understanding that we need a 2/3 vote to take it out but conditions would be irrefutable so not worried about the vote. It eliminates the risk of free cash being certified and Town Meeting saying we can't give AC that money.

Take \$2M in Stabilization Fund also a good gesture and then have \$2.8.

Suzanne – get a number but not sure when or how soon.

Shoot high and then reprogram money in November.

We need to define it.

We are being transparent – contingency for School Budget to deal with COVID – it is not an Advisory Committee Reserve Fund. Set specific parameters for when it can be used. This could be reassuring to Town Meeting. But be sure implicitly or explicitly by reserving the funds about when we consider the school budget reaching into it.

Not just about School COVID funds.

If we were that explicit the funds thought we would be ineligible for Federal reimbursement. The time span – funds could not have been budgeted for before March X but the guidelines end December 31. We are putting more money in the reserve fund because we are anticipating increased costs in the School budget but may also impact other departments – Building department, health care costs, all sorts of variables we need to consider.

Setting aside for School and Town COVID related expenses.

Fred Levitan's resolution regarding raising the trash fee was discussed.

A MOTON was made ... resolution to ask Select Board

Parking meter rates were raised for much the same reasoning.

Agree that the users of this program should pay for it and non-users shouldn't but solid waste costs are also incurred by School and Town.

The Town / School do we have a dumpster program and what about recycle material.

I think we need to know the numbers. This would be a big change for everyone in town that pays for their trash.

This has a significant effect by households and condo associations.

Pre-COVID thought Select Board was going to implement this program – can't see why we can't do it, money could be used elsewhere in the budget, and to Amy's point maybe give a few months' notice to the public.

Paul Warren's proposal:

He introduced his proposal and it was agreed to consider it at Thursday's Advisory Committee meeting.

- 4. Other business

A **MOTION** to adjourn was made, seconded and voted unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 pm.

Documents Presented:

- Public Comments – teacher layoffs and Oak Street
- WA 16
- WA 4
- Davis Footbridge RFT
- CDICR Anti-Racism Letter
- Hilltop Securities Commentary
- Schools Subcommittee Report WA 8
- Town Administrator Answers to Advisory Committee Budget Questions

	Attendance	Vote 1	Vote 2	Vote 3
# Votes Yes	30	24	24	28
# Votes No		0	0	0
# Votes Abstain		3	3	0
Vote Description:		WA 16 Hearing	WA 16 Meeting	WA 4
	<i>Enter P for Present</i>	<i>Enter Y, N or A</i>	<i>Enter Y, N or A</i>	<i>Enter Y, N or A</i>
Carla Benka	P	Y	Y	Y
Ben Birnbaum	P			
Harry Bohrs	P	Y	Y	Y
Cliff Brown	P	Y	Y	Y
John Doggett	P	Y	Y	Y
Dennis Doughty	P	Y	Y	Y

Harry Friedman	P	Y	Y	Y
Janet Gelbart	P	Y	Y	Y
David-Marc Goldstein	P	Y	Y	Y
Neil Gordon	P	Y	Y	Y
Susan Granoff	P	Y	Y	Y
Amy Hummel	P	A	A	Y
Alisa Jonas	P	Y	Y	Y
Janice Kahn	P	A	A	Y
Steve Kanes	P	Y	Y	Y
Bobbie Knable	P	Y	Y	Y
David Lescohier	P	A	A	Y
Carol Levin	P	Y	Y	Y
Fred Levitan	P	Y	Y	Y
Pam Lodish	P			Y
Donelle O'Neal	P	Y	Y	Y
Carlos Ridruejo	P	Y	Y	Y
Lee Selwyn	P	Y	Y	Y
Kim Smith	P	Y	Y	Y
Claire Stampfer	P	Y	Y	Y
Charles Swartz	P	Y	Y	Y
Paul Warren	P	Y	Y	Y
Christine Westphal	P	Y	Y	Y
Neil Wishinsky	P	Y	Y	Y
Mike Sandman	P			



TOWN OF BROOKLINE
Massachusetts
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Andrew M. Pappastergion
Commissioner

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Select Board
From: Andrew M. Pappastergion, Commissioner of Public Works
Date: June 10, 2020
Re: **Additional Reserve Fund Transfer Request
Emergency Demolition – Davis Path Footbridge**
Cc: Melvin Kleckner, Town Administrator
Melissa Goff, Deputy Town Administrator
Jared Duval, P.E., Project manager
Advisory Committee

On May 12, 2020, the Select Board approved, and transmitted to the Advisory Committee, a Reserve Fund Transfer Request in the amount of \$500,000 for the emergency demolition of the main span of the Davis Path Footbridge. This request was based on preliminary estimates for remove of the span, design and construction oversight and MBTA force account costs for both the shutdown of the Green Line and occupying the MBTA right-of-way. Based on actual construction, design and MBTA costs that have now been received, the total all-in costs for the removal of the bridge span are \$850,000 as detailed below:

• Demolition Contractor cost (Atlantic Dismantling):	\$650,000.00
• LiRo Engineers contract amendment #3 for demolition design, contract documents and construction oversight:	\$110,500.00
• MBTA Force Account costs:	\$42,000.00
• Project Contingency	\$47,500.00
Total Project Cost:	\$850,000.00

The Department of Public Works respectfully requests your approval, and transmittal to the Advisory Committee, of an additional Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of \$350,000 to fully fund the emergency demolition of the bridge span including all costs for engineering and MBTA fees. The work has now been scheduled to begin on June 20th to take advantage of a planned MBTA shutdown of the Green Line for work on both the track infrastructure and the high school expansion project.



TOWN OF BROOKLINE

REQUEST FOR RESERVE FUND TRANSFER

DATE: June 10, 2020

To the Select Board:

It is hereby requested that you approve and transmit to the Advisory Committee the following Reserve Fund Transfer:

DEPARTMENT: Department of Public Works

AMOUNT: \$350,000.00

ORG. #: 4918K150

ACCT. #: 6H0031

DESCRIPTION (or attach memorandum): _____

Additional funds required for the demolition of the main span of the Davis Path Bridge

based on actual bid prices received, engineering fees and MBTA force account costs.

(See attached Memorandum dated May 10, 2020)


DEPARTMENT HEAD

APPROVED:

SELECT BOARD

WA 4

ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION

BACKGROUND:

Section 2.1.4 of the Town's By-Laws requires that each Annual Town Meeting include a Warrant Article:

- showing the status of all special appropriations, and to ensure that surplus funds, if any, are managed in a timely fashion;
- identifying the unused portion of borrowing authorization that require rescission.

Under State statutes, surplus funds for revenue-financed capital projects are transferred to free cash at the end of the respective fiscal year. Surplus funds from bond-financed capital projects are also transferred to free-cash, unless they are appropriated under a Warrant Article by Town Meeting for a purpose similar to the original borrowing.

DISCUSSION:

This Warrant Article is basically informational as the Town's Comptroller has the statutory authority and power to close out the accounts without Town Meeting authorization. There are no accounts or bonded items with funds remaining that need to be closed out.

RECOMMENDATION:

By a vote of 26-0-0, the Advisory Committee recommends NO ACTION.

May 2020 Annual Town Meeting

_____ ARTICLE XX

Submitted by: Janice S. Kahn, TMM P15

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell the parcels of land located at 15-19 Oak Street, Brookline, Massachusetts, consisting of approximately 8,209 square feet, including all buildings and structures thereon and all privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging and all interests held pursuant to M.G.L. c. 183A, as well as all trees and shrubs thereon, on such terms and conditions as the Select Board determines to be in the Town's best interest, or take any other action relative thereto.

Land Description:

A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon known as and numbered 15 Oak Street, Brookline, MA, situated in Brookline, Norfolk County, Massachusetts, and bounded and described as follows:

- EASTERLY by Oak Street, sixty-two and 12/100 (62.12) feet;
- SOUTHERLY by Lot 10 on a plan hereinafter referred to, one hundred (100) feet;
- WESTERLY by land of owners unknown, sixty (60) feet;
- NORTHERLY by Lot 8 on said plan, eighty-five and 40/100 (85.40) feet;

Containing approximately 5,709 square feet of land and being Lot 9 on a plan of 18 house lots near Chestnut Hill Station, Brookline, drawn by Whitman and Breck, Surveyors, dated April 18, 1871, and recorded with Norfolk County Registry of Deeds in Book 410, Page 30.

Also, a certain parcel of land lying Southwesterly on Oak Street in said Brookline, bounded and described as follows:

- NORTHEASTERLY by said Oak Street, twenty-five (25) feet
- SOUTHEASTERLY by land formerly of the Rivers School and now of the Town of Brookline, one hundred (100) feet;
- SOUTHWESTERLY by land now or late of Carroll and by land formerly of Daniel F. McGuire, twenty-five (25) feet; and
- NORTHEASTERLY by other land formerly of Daniel F. McGuire, one hundred (100) feet.

Containing about 2,500 square feet of land, or however otherwise said premises may be bounded or described and be all or any of said measurements or contents more or less.

Said premises are shown on a “Plan of Land in Brookline, Mass”, dated September 18, 1941, by Walter A. Devine, Town Engineer, and recorded with Norfolk Registry of Deeds, Book 2369, Page 279.

Assessor’s Description:

<u>Address</u>	<u>Block-Lot-Sub lot</u>
15-19 OAK ST, Unit 15	432-18-01
15-19 OAK ST, Unit 17	432-18-02
15-19 OAK ST, Unit 19	432-18-03

PETITIONER'S ARTICLE DESCRIPTION

In furtherance of the proposed Baldwin School project, Town Meeting authorized the purchase of three residential condominiums at 15-19 Oak Street in December of 2018. The transaction was completed in early 2019 and the cost of debt service for the acquisition was incorporated into the debt exclusion ballot question that was rejected by Brookline voters at the Annual Town Election on May 7, 2019. Up to now the Town has only needed to pay interest on the loan, but in 2021, when amortization is required, the Town will need to begin to pay back principal as well as interest and so the cost of holding onto these properties will significantly increase.

A warrant article to preserve the Town's ability to sell the units and to ensure that this happens was filed for the November 2019 Town Meeting. The required 2/3 vote of town meeting members failed by a narrow margin. With new budgetary concerns, the matter of whether the Town should sell the properties is once again being raised since there are no immediate needs for these properties and there is at least one alternative use for the funds. This article is being refiled for the May 2020 Town Meeting to further that purpose.

New factors in recent months have brought into the focus the benefits to the Town of selling these properties. One is the Brookline Fiscal Advisory Committee's (BFAC) final report issued in February 2020 which has identified a concerning trajectory of the level of debt service the Town of Brookline is assuming as a result of multiple, costly overrides – debt exclusions for the former Devotion School, Brookline High School, Driscoll School, and a general operating override in recent years, as well as the debt exclusion ballot question being proposed on the current warrant to purchase land at the former Newbury College site, in addition to one in the offing for the possible renovation and expansion of the Pierce School. The debt service for the \$4.7 million for the purchase of the Oak Street properties that was entirely borrowed by the Town in anticipation of passage of the May 2019 override can be eliminated by selling the Oak Street properties, freeing up hundreds of thousands of dollars.

If the debt service for the Oak Street properties were to be eliminated, that would free up capital, for instance, for the purchase of over 3 acres of land at the former Newbury College site if the voters approve that ballot question in May. In other words, the sale would lower the total cost of the debt exclusion for Newbury and the Town would own a much larger, more useful and flexible piece of property than the three attached townhouses on only .2 acres of land.

Sale of property requires an open and competitive process to realize the highest price possible. The petitioner of this article urges Town Meeting to authorize the Select Board to sell the Oak Street properties and further urges the Select Board to sell the properties as expeditiously as possible, thereby freeing up borrowing capacity and returning the properties to the tax rolls and treated as "new growth," yielding approximately \$45,000 in real estate taxes.

Brookline Advisory Committee
Schools Subcommittee Report
Warrant Article 8

The Schools Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee held a public hearing on June 3, 2020, which, due to current health concerns, was held via Zoom, to discuss and possibly vote upon the School budget as part of Warrant Article 8 to be acted upon at the 2020 Annual Town Meeting. In attendance were Subcommittee members Cliff Brown (Chair), Dennis Doughty, Janel Gelbart, David Lescohier, and Paul Warren.

Also present were: Ben Lummis (Interim School Superintendent), Suzanne Federspiel (School Committee Vice Chair) and Mary Ellen Normen (Deputy Superintendent for Administration and Finance), other members of the School Committee, Advisory Committee, Town Meeting and the public. A Zoom attendance log which lists attendees is attached (Attachment A)

The Schools Subcommittee held a subsequent public meeting on June 8, 2020, via Zoom, to discuss further and possibly vote upon the School budget. Attending were Subcommittee members Cliff Brown (Chair), Dennis Doughty, Janel Gelbart, David Lescohier, and Paul Warren. Also attending were Ben Lummis (Interim School Superintendent), Suzanne Federspiel (School Committee Vice Chair) and Mary Ellen Normen (Deputy Superintendent for Administration and Finance), members of the Advisory Committee, Town Meeting and the public. A Zoom attendance log which lists attendees is attached (Attachment B)

SUMMARY

The School Committee has requested that Town Meeting appropriate \$118,998,990 for the FY21 Schools Budget. This represents an increase of 1.37% over the \$117,385,106 FY20 appropriation. The FY21 requested appropriation represents a 3.4% decrease from the original, pre-COVID requested FY21 budget of \$123,361,138.

There are several risks associated with the amount being requested for appropriation. The amount does not include COVID-related costs that are unknown at this time and that could be substantial. Depending on how BEEP is structured in the fall, there could be an additional budget gap that is not accounted for in the budget.

The Subcommittee, based on best available information, recommends favorable action for \$118,998,990 to be appropriated for the FY21 School Budget as provided below.

BACKGROUND

Due to the ongoing COVID health crisis, the Public Schools of Brookline's (PSB) budget has been developed in an environment of unprecedented uncertainty. Some of the factors contributing to the challenges in developing the budget included:

- A reduction in forecasted Town revenue that created efforts on both the Town and School side to close the resulting budget gap.

- The lack of clear information from the State on what school will look like in September.
- A delay in guidance from DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education).
- The learning model likely changing as the year progresses based on the health and safety outlook.
- Contractual obligations with the Brookline Educators Union (BEU).

The uncertain environment, need to close the budget gap, and the increasing concern from the school community resulted in several iterations of the budget that culminated in the School Committee requesting an FY21 appropriation from Town Meeting of \$118,998,990. The following is a high-level description of the budget iterations and timing.

Pre-COVID Budget \$125.9 million

Prior to the effects of COVID being fully known, \$1.35 million in cuts to the FY21 School budget were made to balance out projected increases in contractual and collective bargaining personnel expenses, and transportation costs. The \$125.9M budget was brought into balance by eliminating an optional professional development day for staff; consolidating a few small classes in upper elementary and middle school levels; making limited staff reductions based on class enrollment; and reducing funds for additional maintenance to the school buildings.

\$6.3M revenue reduction resulting in \$119.6 million revised budget

In mid-May, the Town reduced its revenue forecast for FY21 by \$12.6M. This reduction took into account the COVID emergency’s forecasted impact on revenue sources including parking meters and fines, hotels, meals tax and marijuana revenue. **Based on the Town-School Partnership formula, 50% of this reduction (\$6.3M) was allocated to the Schools** resulting in a total revised FY21 Schools budget of \$119.6M.

In order to close the \$6.3M budget gap 44.5 FTEs from existing positions¹ were identified for elimination. These included 6.0 central office staff, 32.5 teachers and 6 paraprofessionals.

Restoration of \$1.9M in revenue closing the gap to \$4.4M resulting in a \$121.5M budget

In late May, the Town Administrator slightly modified his revenue projections and proposed some reductions in expenses, including \$3.5 million in CIP expenses, resulting in an additional \$3.75 million being allocated for operating funds. Per the Town-School Partnership, 50% of these funds were allocated to the Schools, thereby, thereby reducing the School budget gap to \$4.4M and increasing the total FY21 School budget to \$121.5M (of which \$119M comes from the Town and the balance comes the Schools including Tuition & Fees and Circuit Breaker funds).

As a result of the continued budget gap, the PSB’s desire to retain maximum flexibility to deliver education programming in the fall, and a contractually-required reduction in force notification

¹ Written responses dated June 8, 2020 to Advisory Committee School Subcommittee questions submitted to Interim Superintendent Ben Lummis

deadline of May 30, 2020, Reduction In Force (RIF) notifications were sent to 300 Public Schools of Brookline employees.

School Committee reduces the budget gap to \$500K

The School Committee continued to consider alternatives to close the gap and on June 4, 2020 voted to adopt two budget actions to reduce the \$4.4M budget gap to \$500K². **These actions included reducing \$1.7M from central office/districtwide costs and removing \$2.2M from a budget line item for potential salary increases district-wide.**

These two actions allowed the School Committee to direct the Superintendent to bring back as many staff as possible, as quickly as possible.

The School Committee and School Department continue to work towards line item adjustment to close the remaining \$500K gap. One possible source mentioned by the Subcommittee was a reduction in rent from third party lessors on the order of 15%-20%.

The budget impact of State COVID regulations on BEEP are unknown.

State regulations for Early Childhood Education have not yet been fully issued. The final guidelines may impact classroom and program capacity, tuition rates and program revenue. The BEEP program is dependent on tuition to fund its program and personnel. **A reduction in enrollment and tuition revenue may result in a program deficit that is not currently accounted for in the FY21 budget.**

COVID-related expenses are unknown and are not included in the FY21 Schools budget

COVID-related expenses may include a wide range of cost categories including but not limited to cleaning supplies and janitorial labor, technology and printed materials, personal protective equipment (PPE), staff training, and support staff. The impact that these costs have on the budget are dependent upon yet-to-be-finalized guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). **The extent to which these expenses may be reimbursed by Federal monies and amount available to us is still unknown**

PUBLIC COMMENT FROM JUNE 3, 2020 HEARING

Following the presentation by Interim Superintendent Lummis, there was input from members of the public. This input was in addition to many emails received by subcommittee members. A list of the comments and responses follows:

1. Discuss the feasibility of using OPEBS, undesignated reserves, deferring capital expenditures and an override to close the gap.

² Letter dated June 5, 2020 from School Committee to Brookline School Community

Response (from Cliff): Contributions to capital improvements and OPEBs are within our control and are being looked at by Town Administrator (TA) and Advisory Committee (AC) as part of budget proposal; pension contribution already submitted to State and cannot be changed for FY 21 (though will be examined for FY 22); use of reserves may have negative impact for future years; override cannot be assumed for June 30 discussion.

2. Concern about reduction to Special Ed which is a mandated program but is included in RIFs.

Response from Ben: RIFs (300 or so) greatly exceed number of layoffs projected in budget (30 FTE teachers). Need to notice broadly as neither the programmatic direction nor ripple of bumping is known; SPED staff positions will not be cut but notice had to include some SPED individuals because they can potentially be bumped; deadline for para RIF notice is 6/15 and will hopefully be more targeted because we have more info, including EEC guidelines.

3. What is meant by reducing FTE's in under enrolled classes – those below capacity or targeted small group programs?

Response from Ben: Meant for High School courses which are traditionally under-enrolled; specifics to be worked out by school staff once budget parameters are established.

4. Why is there a policy that prevents free cash from being used for operations and can this be overridden by Select Board (SB)?

Responses from Cliff: Policy exists because it is not good practice to use one-time funds for ongoing costs; TA can override and has e.g., by re-directing some of the CIP funding included in free cash; need to preserve resources for FY 22 or recurrence of problems in the fall.

5. Concern about impact on under-enrolled courses on METCO.

See response from Ben (3 above)

6. Not appropriate to cite that budget is higher this year than last; comparison should be to 2018 plan; need short term bridge but long-term plan; AC can advocate for overrides even though it is the province of the SB; Driscoll and Pierce are not optional and should not be part of the discussion; great time to borrow and construction inflation will continue.

7. What about fundraising to support the schools?

Response from School Committee: Would be welcome through the many organizations that currently do this; work thru PTOs or contact School Committee member Susan Ditkoff for info.

8. What are the criteria for using rainy day fund and who decides?

Response from Cliff: Only true rainy day fund is the \$6.7 million stabilization fund which is administered by policies established by SB; distribution requires 2/3 vote of TM; if revenue decreased by 3% or more in any year; maximum of \$1 million/year and \$2.5 million in (3) years.

9. What about using marijuana funds to reduce layoffs?

Response from Cliff: Comes in 2 parts – Community impact restricted by law to offset costs to community (e.g., extra police, sanitation, etc.); excise tax revenue is included in budget but is dramatically reduced due to COVID closing.

10. What is the timeline for re-hire?

Response from Ben: Rolling decisions some of which may be reached before TM; define budget and then departments determine how to implement; need clear direction from the School committee; implement EEC guidelines for BEEP which may impact K-2 bumping; DESE guidelines.

Note: Ben is Interim Superintendent Ben Lummis

Cliff is Cliff Brown, Chair of the Subcommittee

DISCUSSION

The Subcommittee discussed a range of issues, including most prominently, the following:

Teacher Raises

The Subcommittee was concerned that \$2.2M was removed from the budget without a prior agreement from the BEU. **The School Committee explained that the raises were not contractually agreed to and therefore not legally required.** The money was being held in a reserve fund anticipating that raises would be negotiated by the BEU as part of collective bargaining for FY21.

COVID Expenses

The Subcommittee explored two topics related to COVID expenses including estimating the expenses and how to pay for them.

There is currently not enough information to develop a budget for COVID-related expenses. Developing an estimate requires specific guidance from DESE and analysis by the School Department on a range of topics including social distancing, classroom capacity, PPE, testing, and requirements for on-line and hybrid (classroom/online) learning environments. On June 5,

DESE published “Guidance on Required Safety Supplies for Re-Opening Schools”. This is an important input to developing an estimate for FY21 COVID expenses. However, the guidance for on-site and on-line education is still needed as well as a final decision by PSB as to what school will look like in September.

The Subcommittee discussed where the budgets for COVID-related expenses should reside and how they should be paid for. It is important to note that these expenses could easily run into the millions of dollars. Given that the costs are unknown, **the Subcommittee recommends flexibility, quick availability of funds, over any fund money in which money is held and therefore suggests** monies be held in the Reserve Fund and allocated as expenses become known and as Federal and State funds are exhausted.

Partnering and Collaboration

The Subcommittee had a substantive discussion related to a perception that the BEU was unwilling to fully collaborate with key stakeholders as those stakeholders seek to develop a plan for a fully synchronous education, whether online, in person or hybrid, in the fall. This perception was the result of statements made by union officers during an on-line panel discussion sponsored by the Brookline Parents Organization on June 7th, in which hundreds of Brookline community members participated. **Members of the Subcommittee encouraged the BEU to separate collective bargaining activities and advocacy from the critical work being done by the Remote Learning Task Force and to participate in the Task Force’s planning work.**

RECOMMENDATION ***

A **MOTION** was made and seconded to recommend favorable action for \$118,998,990 to be appropriated for the FY21 School Budget. The Subcommittee voted unanimously 5-0.

*** Subsequent to the public hearing and public meeting and the drafting of this report, the School Committee indicated that it has received additional guidance from DESE on class sizes required for the re-opening the schools. This information will be discussed during this evening’s Advisory Committee Meeting.

Attachment A
June 3, 2020 Public Hearing Zoom Attendance Log

	chanel keenan	Emmie Foster
Alaina Ortiz	Charlotte :)	Emy Chen
Allyson Poole-Foster	chenry	Eric Latimer
Amie Lindenboim (amielindenboim)	Chi Chi	Erica X. Wong
amielindenboim	Chi Chi Wu (Chi Chi)	Eugene Kim
Ana Hoffman	Chris Maxwell	Evan Macosko
Andrew Maglathlin	Christina Collins	Flora Traub
Andrew Mullins (Andy Mullins)	Claire Stampfer	Fred Levitan
Andy Mullins	Claudia Ordonez	Gael
Angus Lansing	Cliff Brown (Cliff Brown)	Glen Gurner
Anne Sheridan	Colleen Muldoon	Graciela Schimmel
Annie Eagle	Cynthia Creem	hannah bjornson
Anoushka Mallik	D. Perry (Madeline Parker)	harriet rosenstein
Avishai Lindenboim	Daniel Simard	Heather Hamilton
barbara keenan	Dave Gacioch	Heather Pineault
Barry Rosenwasser	David Ford	Helen Charlupski
Ben Birnbaum	David Lescohier	Helen Charlupski (Helen Charlupski)
Ben Lummis	dchisholm	Hiroko Aspi
Betty Strong	debbie mercer (debbiemercer)	hirokosmac
Bianca Medina	debbiemercer	hollysmith
Bridget Muelbert	Deborah Abner	Hsiu-Lan Chang
Britt Stevens	Dennis Doughty	iPhone
Brooks Ames	desktop	Isabel Gunther
Carla Benka	Devon Powell (iPhone)	Isabella Delatorre
Carol Caro	Diane Houghton	Janet Aronson
Caroline Pierce	EF (Emmie Foster)	Janet Gelbart
carolyn munchbach	Eileen Bruen	Janet Kelley (iPhone)
Catherine Burke	eleana	janicekahn
Catherine Shain	Eliana Bernard (OJL Teacher 4)	JdeFoleschampe
Cécile	Elizabeth Bales	Jed Miller
Celeste Peterson	Elizabeth Brennan's iPhone	Jeffrey Benson
Chad Hunte	Elizabeth Sullivan	Jen Sullivan
chanel	Emily Friedman	Jenna Laib

		Name (Original Name)
Jennifer Breneisen	Lindsay Asselin	Name (Original Name)
Jenny Doggett	Lisa Weil's iPhone	Nancy Gorer
Jenny Malaguti	Lisa Wisman Weil	Nancy Gorer (Max.G)
Jeremy Bloch	Lisa Wisman Weil (Lisa Weil's iPhone)	Natasha Goldman
Jess Levasseur	liz	Nathan Shpritz (NATHAN's iPad)
Jessica Flaherty	Lora Kim	NATHAN's iPad
Jim Bales	Lori Lynn	Neil Wishinsky
John Roberge (JohnR)	Luca Kelley Nielsen	Niels Svenstrup
John Roberge (johnroberge)	Lucy Chie	Nina Daly
John VanScoyoc	Lucy's iPhone	OJL Teacher 4
JohnR	Luisa	Padmaja Raman
johnroberge	Luisa Badaracco (Luisa)	Paul Warren
Joshua Paris	Madeline Parker	pavlos
Julie James	Maggie Hoey	Pavlos Pissios
Julie Young (Julie's Awesome iPhone)	Margo Cox	Pavlos Pissios (pavlos)
Julie's Awesome iPhone	Maria Surina	phil dawicki (eleana)
juneharris	Mariah Nobrega	Phone 1 (16177302423)
Kaitlin Robinson	Marianna Yang	Phone 2 (16305366747)
Karen Lurie	Marney Krupat	Phone 3 (16172124461)
Kari Buys	Martin Fishkin	Phone 4 (16179357824)
Kate Silbaugh	Mary Ellen	Pranav Bahl
Katharine Garvey	Mary Ellen Normen (Mary Ellen)	Rachel Sater
Kathleen Conti	Mary Minott	Rachel Swanson
Kathy Defaut	Maureen Shaw	Riley Bellao
katy moy	Maurene Doherty	Rob Blanton
Keira Flynn-Carson	Max.G	Rosemary Stoner (Rosemary's iPhone 8)
Kelly Lamb (klamb)	Maya Kimbro	Rosemary's iPhone 8
Kelly Quaye (Gael)	Maya Kimbro (Maya Kimbro)	Rusty Browder
Kelly Tynan	MC (Margo Cox)	Sara Scott
Kim Loscalzo	Melissa	Sarah
klamb	Melissa Barden (Melissa)	Sarah Cuddihy's iPhone
Kristen Van Dyke	Melissa London	Sarah Stanton
kyle tompkins	Michael D'Onofrio	seth michaelson
Kyle Williams	Michelle An (tt N)	sharon abramowitz (sharonabramowitz)
Kyssandra Perkowski	Mickey Shih (Mickey Shih's 6S iPhone)	sharonabramowitz
Lauren Cecchini	Mickey Shih's 6S iPhone	shelley
Lauren Finucane	Mies Boet	Sheryl Steeves
Leigh Youmans	Mike Sandman (AC) (Advisory Committee)	Siena Zhao
Lina	Mike Toffel	Siew Tin Gan
Lindsay (Lindsay Asselin)		SJ You

Sophie
sophiegorlin
Stacey
Stacey Kottis (Stacey)
Stephanie Liu
Steve Simolaris
Steven
Steven Ehrenberg (Steven)
Steven Kanis
Susan DiPesa
Susan Granoff
Susan Rosser (Charlotte :))

Susan Wolf Ditkoff (desktop)
Suzanne Federspiel
SZ (Siena Zhao)
Talmadge Nardi
Tanya Paris
Teresa Gallo-Toth
Thintz
Tim Hintz (thintz)
Tomoko Ouchi (Lina)
tt N
Victoria Cavanaugh
Vikki-Lynn Castellano

Wendy
wendyames
wendysheridanames (wendyames)
Wesley Chin
Xavier Schoen
Yaakov Jaffe
Yayun (Wendy) Wang (Wendy)
yhayashi
Youly Diamanti-Karanou
yuki hayashi (yhayashi)
Zev's iPhone ☐ 📱.

Attachment B
June 8, 2020 Public Meeting Zoom Attendance Log

Alissa
Ben Birnbaum
Ben Lummis
Bobbie Knable
Biscotto
Carla Benka
Cliff Brown
David Lescohier
Dennis Doughty
Desktop
Fred Levitan
Garry Boyce
gus costa
Harry Friedman
Janet Gelbart

Janet Kelley
John VanScoyoc
Jonathan Golden
jneharris
Kate Silbaugh
Kim Loscalzo
Leora Faiber
maria kalaitzidis
Mariah Nobrega
Mark A Gray Jr
Mark Levy
Marlene Goncalves
Martha Recht
Mary Ellen
Matt King
Michael Herdeg
Mike Toffel
NATHAN's iPad
Padmaja Raman
Paul Warren
sarah Kitterman

Susan WD (desktop)
Suzanne Federspiel
Teena
Wendy Wang



U.S. Municipal Bond Market

Credit Deteriorating, Moody's Lowers State Outlook to "Negative"

Summary

- The Fed announced adjustments to its \$500 billion Municipal Liquidity Facility (MLF), highlighted by city and county eligibility expansions. Some additional elements about the process and requirements were also provided.
- Today, Moody's lowered their U.S. State sector outlook to "Negative" from "Stable."
- The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) increased their forecast of U.S. state budget shortfalls to \$650 billion from \$500 billion.
- House Speaker Nancy Pelosi made clear this week that the Democrats are pushing for \$1 trillion of aid for state and local governments. There is resistance from Republicans, but we need to wait to see how negotiations play out before we can identify the level of political risk that exists.
- S&P Global assigned a "Negative" outlook to most of their public and private U.S. higher-ed institutions this week because of the COVID-19 impact.
- We are seeing evidence of weakening demand for narrow security pledges in the higher-ed sector. We saw only very limited interest in a public higher-ed institution that brought competitive issues this week.
- We believe there is legislation that is being considered that would broaden the reach of the Federal Home Loan Banks, potentially allowing them to back non-housing bonds.
- A bipartisan State and Municipal Aid for Recovery Transition (SMART) proposal is being championed by Senators Menendez (D-N.J.) and Cassidy, M.D. (R-La.). We expect advocacy to continue related to this effort, and perhaps in the near term (even next week), we may begin to hear more specifics.
- \$1.255 billion of investment dollars flowed out of municipal funds this week, according to Lipper data.

The Federal Reserve Expanded its Municipal Liquidity Facility this Week

On Monday, April 27, the Federal Reserve announced adjustments to its \$500 billion MLF, highlighted by city and county eligibility expansions. Some additional elements about the process and requirements were also provided. Other basics are still missing and are going to be provided at a later time, according to the Federal Reserve and Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

We covered this important happening with a five-page summary report and included six pages of tables that identify the eligible states, cities and counties in our April 29 report: [Fed Expands Municipal Liquidity Facility, Provides Details.](#)

Moody's Lowered State Government Sector to "Negative" from "Stable"

Today, Moody's lowered their U.S. State sector outlook to "Negative" from "Stable." The rating agency wrote, "States themselves have strong powers to make budgetary adjustments through cuts, revenue increases and shifting costs to lower levels of government, but the historic crisis will substantially test the options." And Moody's identified the following factors as key contributors:

Tom Kozlik
Head of Municipal Strategy & Credit
214.859.9439
tom.kozlik@hilltopsecurities.com

Today, Moody's lowered their U.S. State sector outlook to "Negative" from "Stable." The rating agency wrote, "States themselves have strong powers to make budgetary adjustments through cuts, revenue increases and shifting costs to lower levels of government, but the historic crisis will substantially test the options."

- The coronavirus-driven economic downturn will extend beyond widespread businesses reopening across the country;
- Some state actions to counter the downturn will increase the sector’s leverage and diminish its record reserves;
- High fixed costs will reduce flexibility for some states;
- Emergency federal aid is not yet earmarked to replace lost revenue;
- The innate strengths of state credit will buttress the sector’s ability to manage through the cycle;
- What could change the outlook (also from Moody’s): The outlook could shift to stable if efforts to contain and treat the virus and develop a vaccine proceed more rapidly and improve the speed and strength of an economic recovery. Substantial federal aid directed to offset state revenue declines could also lead to a return to a stable outlook.¹

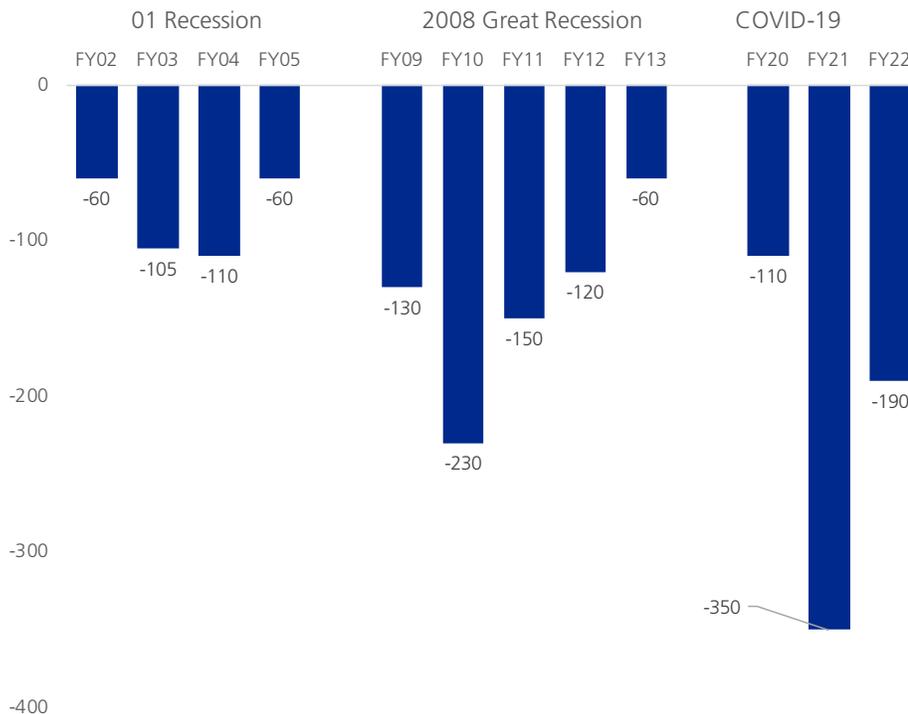
Moody’s last assigned a “Negative” outlook to the U.S. State sector in February 2008 as a result of the 2008 World Financial Crisis’ financial impact. The state outlook was finally moved to “Stable” in August 2013.

Moody’s last assigned a “Negative” outlook to the U.S. State sector in February 2008 as a result of the 2008 World Financial Crisis’ financial impact. The state outlook was finally moved to “Stable” in August 2013.

Larger State Budget Shortfalls Forecasted by the CBPP

The CBPP increased their forecast of U.S. state budget shortfalls to \$650 billion from \$500 billion. Further, the CBPP noted, “Federal aid provided to date will help cover some of these shortfalls but it is not nearly enough. Only about \$65 billion of the aid provided in earlier COVID-19 packages is readily available to narrow these shortfalls. Using that aid and the \$75 billion that states have in rainy day funds would leave states with about \$510 billion in unaddressed shortfalls.”²

The CBPP Revised State Budget Shortfall Forecast to \$650 Billion



The CBPP increased their forecast of U.S. state budget shortfalls to \$650 billion from \$500 billion.

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and HilltopSecurities.

Speaker Pelosi Suggests \$1 Trillion for State and Local Government Aid

Mostly ideas are being circulated about what could be included in the next CARES 2 emergency package. Detailed negotiations are currently not occurring on the topic.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi made clear this week that Democrats are pushing for \$1 trillion of aid for state and local governments.³ There is resistance from Republicans,

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi made clear this week that Democrats are pushing for \$1 trillion of aid for state and local governments.³ There is resistance from Republicans, but we need to wait to see how negotiations play out before we can identify the level of political risk that exists.

but we need to wait to see how negotiations play out before we can identify the level of political risk that exists. It seems, "Senate Republicans haven't yet said they would be willing to do another stimulus bill any time soon. [Senator Majority Leader Mitch] McConnell said this week he is open to helping state and local governments with coronavirus expenses. But he's said that any new bill must contain liability protections for businesses that reopen during the pandemic."⁴

S&P Global tried to give investors, issuers, and observers an idea of what they can expect as far as potential for change is concerned related to the outlook moves and potential downgrades

S&P Revised Individual Outlooks on Most Higher Ed Institutions to "Negative"

S&P Global lowered the outlooks on most of its U.S. public and private higher-ed institutions to "Negative" from "Stable" this week. Some were lowered to "Stable" from "Positive" as well. The current and potential impact from COVID-19 was cited as the leading cause for the outlook actions. The rating agency wrote:

Although liquidity, as measured by available resources compared to debt and operating expenses, was the primary metric assessed, an institution's overall credit profile, including draw, selectivity, matriculation rates, operating margins, and revenue diversity, was also considered. For public institutions, reliance on state operating appropriations and expectations around future funding levels was also an important part of our assessment.⁵

And S&P Global tried to give investors, issuers, and observers an idea of what they can expect as far as potential for change is concerned related to the outlook moves and potential downgrades.

A negative outlook reflects our view that there is at least a one-in-three chance that operating and economic conditions will worsen to a degree that affects the ability of the college or university to maintain credit characteristics in line with the current rating level.⁶

Toward the middle to end of April, the negotiated and competitive markets seemed to be on a course back to normalcy. But, this week a glimpse of what may be to come for municipals if or when credit becomes a larger concern appeared in the competitive market.

Uncertainty Remains in the U.S. Higher Education Sector

For weeks, questions about access to the municipal bond market have existed. There were weeks in March when, mostly because of liquidity pressures, state and local governments and other tax-exempt issuers were not able to sell debt. Toward the middle to end of April, the negotiated and competitive markets seemed to be on a course back to normalcy. But, this week a glimpse of what may be to come for municipals if or when credit becomes a larger concern appeared in the competitive market.

Competitive Market

There does not seem to be anything structurally wrong with the competitive municipal market now. This week's competitive calendar was relatively light at just over \$1 billion. And next week's calendar is now expected to be just under \$1 billion. Interest and follow-through was mostly strong for the competitive issues in the market this week. Spreads widened in the front-end of the yield curve, but this is a relationship that we are seeing in the negotiated market as well.

Iowa State University

What was unique in this week's competitive market is that there was no to limited interest in three different security pledges offered by Iowa State University (Board of Regents). Under normal circumstances we may have expected a half-dozen to a dozen bids for each of the issues. Instead, we saw one bid for two and no bids for one of the issue offered.

- \$17.665 million State University of Iowa Telecommunications Facility Revenue (Aa1) took bids at 11 a.m. EST. This issue received only one bid.
- \$14.695 million State University of Iowa Athletic Facility Revenue (Aa3) took bids at 11 a.m. EST. This issue did not receive any bids.
- \$17.650 million Iowa State Univ (Univ. of Science and Tech) Dormitory Revenue (Aa2/A+) took bids at 11:30 a.m. EST and only received one bid. This issue was insured by Build America Mutual, a distinguishing feature for sure.

There does not seem to be anything structurally wrong with the competitive municipal market now. This week's competitive calendar was relatively light at just over \$1 billion. And next week's calendar is now expected to be just under \$1 billion.

Different Security Pledges

Iowa State University, located in Ames, has historically had a strong credit profile. It is the state's land grant university and its athletic teams compete in the Big 12 Conference. Student demand (32,000 FTE) had been consistent (although it has fallen very slightly in recent years). The university itself has a strong liquidity position as measured by 201 days cash on hand (169 is the Moody's Aa median.) The university has an Academic Building Revenue structure secured by a broad university pledge. It also has a complicated debt structure with several other more narrow revenue streams including: Dormitory Revenue Bonds; Athletic Facilities Revenue Bonds; Utility System Revenue Bonds; Revenue Bonds (Biosciences Building Projects); Parking System Revenue Bonds; and the Memorial Union Revenue Bonds.

The competitive issue that did not receive any bids was the State University of Iowa Athletic Facility Revenue Bonds (Aa3), which are secured by the net revenues of the Athletic Facilities System.

The competitive issue that did not receive any bids was the State University of Iowa Athletic Facility Revenue Bonds (Aa3), which are secured by the net revenues of the Athletic Facilities System. The Athletic Facilities System pledge includes the university football facilities and Jack Trice Stadium, used primarily for Big 12 football games. This type of security would be considered a much more narrow security pledge compared to a broad university pledge of revenues.

FHLB System Proposed Legislation

We believe there is legislation that is being considered that would broaden the reach of the Federal Home Loan Banks, potentially allowing them to back non-housing bonds.

As part of the 2008 financial crisis era programs, The Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA) amended Section 149(b) of the Internal Revenue Code allowing Federal Home Loan Banks to credit enhance non-housing tax-exempt bonds. This expanded authority sunset 2010. Between 2008 and 2010 there were 130 tax-exempt of bond transactions totally about \$4 billion.

We believe there is legislation that is being considered that would broaden the reach of the Federal Home Loan Banks, potentially allowing them to back non-housing bonds.

There is a proposal being considered that could potentially allow the Federal Home Loan Banks to issue LOCs for all tax-exempt municipal bonds. We still do not know the potential breadth and depth of this proposal, or its chances of passage. This proposal is still in the very early stages, and we will continue to monitor its progress and identify the implications to the market.

Bipartisan State and Municipal Aid for Recovery Transition Proposal

A bipartisan State and Municipal Aid for Recovery Transition (SMART) proposal is being championed by Senators Bob Menendez (D-N.J.) and Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-La.); [you can see the announcement here](#).⁷ The initial announcement noted the need for a \$500 billion stabilization fund in line with the request made a few weeks ago by governors nationwide. Please note above that the \$500 billion shortfall is now a \$650 billion shortfall. We expect advocacy to continue related to this effort and perhaps in the near term (even next week), we may begin to hear more specifics.

Municipal Fund Flows Turned Negative This Week

An important identifier of municipal bond demand turned negative this week. \$1.255 billion of investment dollars flowed out of municipal funds this week, according to Lipper data. This is after demand was just positive for two straight weeks, as about \$900 million flowed into municipal funds in the previous two weeks.

An important identifier of municipal bond demand turned negative this week. \$1.255 billion of investment dollars flowed out of municipal funds this week, according to Lipper data.

¹ State outlook revised to negative as coronavirus impact deepens; Moody's Investor Service; May 1, 2020.

² Leachman, Michael; [New CBO Projections Suggest Even Bigger State Shortfalls](#); Center on Budget and Policy Priorities; April 29, 2020.

³ Lillis, Mike; [Pelosi floats almost \\$1T for states in next relief package](#); The Hill; April 30, 2020.

⁴ Wasson, Erik; Billy House, and Laura Litvan; [Pelosi Says State and Cities Seek \\$1 Trillion in Next Stimulus](#); Bloomberg Politics; April 30, 2020.

⁵ [Outlooks Revised On Certain US Not-For-Profit Higher Education Institutions Due to COVID-19 Impact](#); S&P Global; April 30, 2020.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ [Menendez, Cassidy Announce Bipartisan Breakthrough to Deliver Much-Needed Federal Resources to States, Communities on Frontline of COVID-19 Fight](#); Sen Menendez website; April 19, 2020.

Recent HilltopSecurities COVID-19 Municipal Commentary

- [Fed Expands Municipal Liquidity Facility, Provides Details](#), April 29, 2020
- [2020 Municipal Bond Analyst Survey](#), April 28, 2020
- ["Push the Pause Button" Elevating the Level of Political Risk](#), April 23, 2020
- [No Relief](#), April 20, 2020
- [Health Crisis Abates, Markets Normalizing & Watching Credit Quality](#), April 17, 2020
- [Governments on Deadline for \\$150 Billion of Cares Act Relief](#), April 13
- [More Good News than Bad This Week](#), April 9, 2020
- [Rating Agencies - Assessing Ability and Willingness in the New COVID-19 Normal](#), April 8, 2020
- [Non-Profit U.S. Healthcare - Rising Costs of Care from the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), April 7, 2020
- [Three Key Atypical Credit Risks & Market Update](#), April 3, 2020

Recent HilltopSecurities COVID-19 Economic Commentary

- [The Fed's Promise and Vaccine Progress Boost Stocks](#), April 29, 2020
- [News and Notes from a Troubled Week](#), April 24, 2020
- [The Problem With Oil](#), April 21, 2020
- [The First Wave of Ugly Monthly Data](#), April 15, 2020
- [Notes on the April Bloomberg Economists Survey](#), April 14, 2020
- [2020 Q1 Economic Recap and Rate Outlook](#), April 9, 2020
- [Stocks Gain on Broadening Fed Support](#), April 9, 2020

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FY 2021 Revised Budget

Advisory Committee

June 10, 2020



FY 2021 - Building a Budget with Unprecedented Uncertainty

Building a budget with the following circumstances and uncertainties:

- ▶ No clear, concrete information on how we will open in September and what school will look like
- ▶ DESE doesn't plan to share DRAFT guidance with communities until mid-June
- ▶ Information and knowledge about health, safety, and learning approach is likely to change throughout the spring and summer.
- ▶ Learning model is likely to change as the year progresses based on health and safety outlook
- ▶ Had to abide by May 30 deadline in collective bargaining agreement to notify any staff who may get laid off due to budget-based Reduction in Force (RIF)
- ▶ Must complete budget so Select Board, Advisory Committee can review prior to Town Meeting

FY 2021 - Building a Budget with Unprecedented Uncertainty

Budget & Planning Assumptions

- ▶ **Building a budget with maximum flexibility** - For now as we plan for the new school year and for during the school year so we can adjust as necessary
- ▶ Requires flexibility in staffing and budget contingencies as PSB would need more staff when it moves between a remote learning and hybrid approach
- ▶ Part of the year in a remote learning environment, and part in a hybrid learning environment.
- ▶ BEEP will require greater depth of planning before its plan can be set because of its requirements as an integrated program dependent on tuition and revolving fund.

FY 2021 - Building a Budget with Unprecedented Uncertainty

Budget & Planning Assumptions

- ▶ Remote learning environment will need to be strengthened to provide more coherent instruction and support for all students across the district
- ▶ Development of K-8 teaching opportunities and instruction materials could happen on more of a district-wide approach in subject areas, grades, and specials. Department-level approach at BHS.
- ▶ Want to prioritize small group support and instruction by sharing responsibilities for creating remote learning opportunities, content, curriculum, and instruction
- ▶ Will need to use all staff flexibly, and perhaps additional staff, to provide learning opportunities in a school environment that will be changing throughout the year

FY21 Budget Planning Priorities for a COVID-19 School Year

1. Preserve and maintain special education staff including special education paraprofessionals
2. Preserve social emotional and health support including guidance counselors, social workers, psychologists, and nurses
3. Preserve core academics and Brookline's small class sizes
4. Prioritize and preserve spending on educational technology support, software and hardware, and professional development in technology and K-8 math
5. Preserve programs that support equity including English Language Education, METCO, and Steps to Success
6. Determine how best to preserve and maintain Brookline Early Education Program (BEEP)
7. Contingency planning includes identifying savings that will allow for operation of a hybrid approach for part of the year and for purchasing additional supplies and materials (health and learning related)

Budget Picture is Fluid and Changing Weekly

Program	FY20 STM Approved Budget	FY21 Balanced Budget Recommendation on April 2020	FY 21 Town/School Partnership 5/15/20	Change from April 2020 FY21 Balanced Budget Recommendation	FY 21 Town/School Partnership 5/29/20	Change from April 2020 FY21 Balanced Budget Recommendation
Revenue						
General Fund Approp.	\$117,385,106	\$123,361,138	\$117,080,589	\$(6,280,549)	\$ 118,998,990	\$ (4,362,148)
Tuition & Fees	\$ 717,523	\$ 505,000	\$ 505,000	--	\$ 505,000	--
Circuit Breaker	\$ 1,769,814	\$ 2,071,547	\$ 1,971,547	\$100,000	\$ 1,971,547	\$100,000
Total Revenue	\$ 119,872,443	\$125,937,685	\$119,557,136	\$(6,380,549) -5.10%	\$121,475,537	\$(4,462,148) -3.5%

FY 21 Budget: Ongoing and Continuous Evolution

What we did in January

1. *Live within our means by foregoing adding new positions in favor of preserving, as best we can, the programs, staff, services, and support we currently have -*
 - a. Reduction of planned growth from override - \$1,157,208 (teachers and one school-based administrator)
2. Further refinement of Special Education Tuition and Transportation projections reduced anticipated spending by \$666,408
3. Continue the FY 20 reductions in Supplies/Materials - \$600,380
4. Utility Expenses for 2 Clark Rd removed prior to Revenue Allocation - \$151,922

Total of these adjustments = \$2,575,918 (All were planned expenditures)

The Original FY 2021 Balanced Budget

What was done in April to create a Balanced Budget Recommendation

1. *Adjust staffing, programs, and services based on as part of an annual assessment of what is needed in the upcoming year*
 - a. Professional Development: defund 184th day (second district-wide professional development day) that has never been used; Focus teacher mentor programs on beginning teachers - \$235,000
 - b. Consolidation of small classes in upper elementary and middle grades - Lawrence, CCS, Pierce, Baker, and Heath - \$353,500
 - c. Special education staff based on reduction of known and anticipated needs of students (6.4 FTE) - \$314,000
 - d. Eliminate BU Internship program - \$80,000
2. Identify cost savings through targeted adjustments rather than across the board cuts to any programs
 - a. Adjustments based on school scheduling needs - does not reduce programming that students will receive (Visual Arts .5 FTE; World Language .4 FTE; Math specialist/coach .7 FTE)

FY 21 Budget: Ongoing and Continuous Evolution

May 15, 2020

- ▶ On May 15, the Town directed PSB to create a new FY 2021 budget that reduces FY 21 Total Revenue by an additional \$6.3 million to \$119,557,136
- ▶ FY 21 total revenue would be \$315,000 below FY 20 total revenue
- ▶ PSB must identify cuts, reductions, and savings of \$6.3 million on top of previously identified reductions

FY 21 Budget: Ongoing and Continuous Evolution

May 29, 2020

- ▶ Town adjusts budget scenario by reducing CIP budget and allocating it to PSB
- ▶ PSB FY 2021 revenue increases by \$ (315,307) to \$ 1,918,401
- ▶ PSB must identify cuts, reductions, and savings of \$4.4 million on top of reductions in April 2020 balanced budget recommendations

Budget Picture is Fluid and Changing Weekly

Program	FY20 STM Approved Budget	FY21 Balanced Budget Recommendation on April 2020	FY 21 Town/School Partnership 5/15/20	Change from April 2020 FY21 Balanced Budget Recommendation	FY 21 Town/School Partnership 5/29/20	Change from April 2020 FY21 Balanced Budget Recommendation
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Total Revenue	\$ 119,872,443	\$125,937,685	\$119,557,136	\$(6,380,549) -5.10%	\$121,475,537	\$(4,462,148) -3.5%

Total Savings for FY 21 Based on Proposed by Interim Superintendent (6/1)

	Savings
Central Office, District-wide Leaders, and Expenditures	\$1,695,500
Proposed Reductions for K-8	\$2,016,502
Proposed Reductions for BHS	\$1,258,367
Total	\$4,970,369
Planned Contingency to address likely additional costs for health, safety, program, and revolving fund deficits	\$508,221

School Committee Decision on June 4, 2020

	Identified Savings
Central Office, District-wide Leaders, and Expenditures	\$1,695,500
Proposed Reductions for K-8	\$2,016,502
Proposed Reductions for BHS	\$1,258,367
Eliminated planned annual increases for all staff except those that are contractually obligated (AFSCME, BEU steps and lanes)	\$2,221,500
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$3,917,000</i>
FY 2021 Budget Gap still needed to be closed - Will be closed through identifying further service cuts, eliminating three planned K-8 positions, and cutting stipends	~\$500,000

The Work Now

- ▶ Rescinding layoff notices for Professional Status Teachers first (this week)
- ▶ Identify bumping paths for the limited reductions from April balanced budget (June 15)
- ▶ Rescind layoff notices for pre-professional status whose positions are guaranteed (Week of June 15)
- ▶ Identify further savings (~\$500,000 gap) and to create contingency for additional anticipated costs
- ▶ Continue planning to identify additional costs and potential sources
- ▶ Advisory Committee and Select Board review of budget in preparation for Town Meeting

Here are my responses in red.

- Has the Retirement Board been asked about the possibility of using some part of payments into the Pension Fund in FY 22 to fund operating?

Yes, they are exploring various funding options as part of the next formal update of the actuarial valuation. Please be aware that this includes the possibility of reducing the assumed rate of investment return, which has the effect of increasing funding costs.

- Is there an alignment of assumptions behind revenue projections and expenditure projections?

Expenditure budgets were built following the amendment of revenue projections. As we work towards November there will likely need to be additional adjustments needed to conform to YTD activity.

- How can there be cuts to IT when we are relying so much on the department's services at this point?

IT will be exploring reductions to telephone lines, which has been done over the years. It not achievable they would need to reduce general consulting.

- Has there been confirmation with non-profits that they still plan to pay PILOTs ?

Yes.

- What does the term "Large Bond Funded Projects" in the powerpoint presentation refer to?

The Robinson Playground and the Larz Anderson projects.

- Will we lose State Library Aid with the proposed reductions to the Library budget?

We do not anticipate this, but may need to file for a waiver

- Is there any update on the uncollected parking ticket fines? Are those receivables still being carried on the books?

Jeana Franconi has been working with the Traffic Division to improve collection practices and adopt similar practices as we have with excise collections. She has been working with the ticketing vendor to automate notices to the RMV, which should improve compliance. We will write off the receivables in the same manner as excise, but will still try to collect the revenue.

- How would Moodys et al react to a reduction in OPEBs, Pensions, and the Stabilization Fund (We realize the reactions may be different for one of these than it is for the others.)

Attached please find a summary provided by our financial advisor.

- Given that BFAC determined that Brookline would need periodic operating overrides and that the effects of Covid 19 on daily life and on economic activity will persist until the advent of adequate preventive measures or medical therapy, and that we need to be prepared for new viral infections in the future, should we now consider an operating override for town and school expenses? That is a political decision for the Select Board.

What is the thinking behind not raising trash fees and parking fees to the extent proposed in the pre-covid budget?

We did receive policy direction on parking meter fee increases and intend to implement the proposed increase effective July 1, 2020 (for the full FY 2021). The proposal for Trash Fee increases was proposed to commence mid-year in an effort to minimize the financial impacts on residents during this economic crisis. Similarly, the rate of increase was moderated which will sustain the general fund subsidy (see below)

- Has any consideration been given to the idea of having the costs of solid waste pick up and disposal covered entirely by user fees with the exception of the portion attributable to the Town

and Schools, which should be covered by the budget? Fuller discussion needs to be had on the general fund subsidy and if it's still appropriate.

From: Thomas Lerra [mailto:tlerra@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 12:56 PM
To: Lisa Portscher
Cc: Dena Lerra
Subject: Desperate Driscoll Parents - Plea for Change

Hello Lisa,

We wanted to let you know how dismayed we are by the RIF actions that have been applied to Brookline's educational system.

We understand that budgeting and forecasting exercises are exceedingly difficult to execute. We understand the uncertainty concerning what school looks like in September. We are grateful that a budgeting solution was found last week, and that the budget gap is currently \$500k.

What we don't understand is why the education of our children was being sacrificed in the budgeting process.

We don't understand why other budgeting solutions were not explored before the RIF occurred? The Brookline Schools' reputation has taken countless steps backward and we have shown other towns exactly what NOT to do.

One area of major concern is the **middle school LAHB program**. Due to the cuts, there are NO middle school LAHB teachers come September. Reena Schultz' expertise working with kids with learning disabilities, including our son Trey, has been life-changing. Her thoughtful and expert attention to each student is unlike anything we have seen. She and Catherine McCormick, who is trained in the Orton Gillingham teaching method is a cohesive team and the idea of losing them quickly to other school systems is more than a possibility. It is hard to find educators with these specific skills and I would be surprised if they are not getting actively recruited.

We also don't understand why our **paraprofessionals** are being RIF'd on June 14th? They have the deepest relationships with the kids who need the support the most. They are grossly underpaid compared to other towns. They are overlooked as mission-critical staff in our schools. Brookline has a hard time recruiting/hiring/retaining paraprofessionals for these reasons. These people keep 2-3 jobs to make a decent living and cutting them will be disastrous. These are amazing, talented, patient, and overlooked staff. Letting them go is disgrace and disservice to all their efforts to date. This action will negatively impact the Brookline schools for many years to come.

We want to ensure that we are not failing our children and damaging their future. **As residents, we would be willing to pay more property tax to ensure that our schools maintain their excellence.** As we move forward, we must find better ways to address these challenges and that we prioritize our children's education and future. We cannot afford to lose any school staff and can do better in finding solutions to our budgeting problems.

As parents of public BPS students, we are asking you to *please reinstate as many, if not ALL of the educational professionals you have laid off*. We understand that the message is that this is only temporary and most will get reinstated, but if it does not happen imminently, there will be long term damage done.

Respectfully,
Thomas and Dena Lerra
Driscoll School Parents

From: KRISTINE L KNAUF <kknauf@comcast.net>
Subject: Re: oak (letter sent last night)
Date: June 10, 2020 at 12:38:58 PM EDT
To: Carla Benka <rcvben@earthlink.net>
Reply-To: KRISTINE L KNAUF <kknauf@comcast.net>

Dear Carla, Michael, and Lisa,
As an abutter to the Oak Street condominiums, I walk by daily.
Since the town has taken ownership, they have become quite run down.
The town has not cared for them and the attached photos were taken several months ago and now they are even more weathered.
The #17 Oak Street tenant moved out in January. So the town has missed out on the \$2000/month rent on that unit.
Because of Covid, the other two tenants have delayed exit dates, but each has now purchased other units.
I don't know what the debt service is on this property, but I know these units are costly as we have to repay the loan on them.
This seemed to be a wasteful enterprise. Still is.
Thank you.
Regards,
Kristine Knauf
TMM 15

-----Original Message-----

From: Robin Holtz [mailto:rwholtz@icloud.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 1:12 PM
To: Lisa Portscher
Subject: Save the Teachers

Dear Advisory Committee Member,

I am distressed and saddened to hear of the possibility of drastic cuts to school teachers in Brookline.

With two nieces and a nephew at Heath School, I have become familiar with some of these teachers, including Ms. Hockensmith, who may lose their position.

I was fortunate to sit in and assist Ms. Hockensmith in some of her classes. Having a background in Elementary Education myself, I was immediately impressed with her ability to teach classes from every grade, K-8. Even though she was short handed, she was able to handle the overwhelming amount of students she had to teach with skill and patience.

Her calm demeanor and way of presenting skills through thoughtful, integrated art lessons was masterful. This ability went beyond simply having an art class for students. Her students flock to her classroom on their own time to do art, socialize, and hang out.

She is a clear example of what makes Heath School, and Brookline schools in general, extraordinary and so well respected for so many years.

It would be a shame to see talented teachers like Ms. Hockensmith not at Heath School. And further, a real tragedy to eliminate the art program for students in Brookline.

I am begging you to reconsider and find a better solution to the budget problem.

Sincerely,
Robin Holtz
Brookline Resident,
Auntie Robin to Heath Hawks Keren, Emma, Joseph

From: Toby Dewey [mailto:morleydewey@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 3:13 PM
To: Lisa Portscher
Subject: Sale of Oak Street properties

We support the sale of the 15-19 Oak St properties wholeheartedly.

They should stay as housing for a town always short on housing, and the money can be better used by the town for other purposes.

Susan Morley and Toby Dewey

From: Robert Miller [mailto:tmm8@isgmarketing.com]

Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 1:42 PM

To: Mike Offner

Cc: Erica X. Wong; Carla Benka; Bernard Greene; Ben Franco; Nancy Heller; Heather A. Hamilton; Raul Fernandez; Lisa Portscher; Ana Albuquerque; Deborah Brown; Cathleen Cavell; Elijah Ercolino; James Franco; Neil Gordon; Helen Herman; Carol Hillman; Sean Lynn-Jones; Alexandra Metral; Bettina Neufeind; Bob Schram; Katherine Silbaugh; Charles Terrell; Paul Warren; Jennifer Englund; Ben Hellerstein; Judith Kidd; Lisa Liss; Rita McNally; Linda Pehlke; Jane Piercy; Susie Roberts; Livia Kahl; John Shreffler; Diana Spiegel; Stanley Spiegel; Caitlin Studdard; Davis Wimberly; Kate Becker; Jeffrey Benson; Harry Bohrs; Mary Dewart; Mac Dewart; Dennis Doughty; Jane Gilman; Gary Jones; Don Leka; Meggan Levene; Mike Sandman; Kathleen Scanlon; Frank Steinfield; Rebecca Stone; Michael Wiecek; Sarah Axelrod; Sarah Boehs; Alan Christ; Marty Farlow; Daniel Fishman; Peter Frumkin; Nadine Gerdt; Wendy MacMillan; John Mulhane; Mariah Nobrega; Donelle O'Neal; Vena Priestly; Virginia Smith; Robert Volk; Rob Daves; Cynthia Drake; Olivia Fischer Fox; Michael Glover; Amie Lindenboim; Wendy Machmuller; hmattison@aol.com; hmattison@aol.com; Douglas Meiklejohn; Faith Michaels; Phyllis O'Leary; Andrew Olins; William Reyelt; Claire Stampfer; Neil Wishinsky; Erik Wurster; Catherine Anderson; Joh Basset; Brian Bergstein; Arthur Conquest; Chris Dempsey; Michael Doldron; Cher Duffield; senglander1@gmail.com; Brian Hochleutner; Clint Richmond; Jeff Rudolph; Dan Saltzman; ksmith1450@aol.com; rsneider@hotmail.com; Anne Trecker; Susan Cohen; Keith Duclos; Electris Christi; Susan Ellis; Ernie Frey; Susan Granoff; Mark Gray; Kelly Hardebeck (Kelly@hardebeck.us); Lara Jarrell; Mark Levy; Jonathan Margolis; Stacey Zelbow Provost; Rita Shon-Baker; James Slayton; Ilan Wapinski; Lauren Bernard; Tracie Burns; Abby Cox; DM Goldstein; Anne Greenwald; John Harris; Anita Johnson; Edward Loechler; Hadassah Margolis; Kate Poverman; Barbara Scotto; mtoffel@hbs.edu; Maura Toomey; Donald Weitzman; Beth Kates; Paul Harris; Barr Jozwicki; Joyce Jozwicki; Pam Katz; Benjamin Kaufman; Bob Lepson; Cathy Loula; HARRIET ROSENSTEIN; Martin Rosenthal; Chuck Swartz (chswartz@rcn.com); Dwaigh Tyndal; Judith Vanderkay; Bob Weintraub; George Abbott White; brookline@cscott.net; Carol Caro; Frank Caro; jdavis@kcl-law.com; Linda Davis; Lilly Gaehde; Jesse Gray; Bobbie Knable (bobbieknable@gmail.com); Andreas Liu; Ted Livingston; Ariel Maddocks; Jessica Morris; Theodore Scholnick; Alexandra Spingarn; Naomi Sweitzer; Shira Hannah Fischer; Nichola Gertler; Shanna Giora-Gorfajn; Jennifer Goldsmith; Martha Gray; Boney Jones-Dasent; david@lescohier.com; Ken Lewis; David Lowe; Rebecca Mautner; Nicole McClelland; Maryellen Moran; David Pollak; bsheehan@eaglebridgecapital.com; Leonard Wholey; Stephanie Bruce; Michael Burstein; Lee Cooke Childs; daly.nan@gmail.com; Harry Friedman; Stephanie Greenfield; Casey Hatchett; Amy Hummel; Jonathan Karon; David Klafter; Mark Lowenstein; Harry S. Margolis; Judy Meyers; Jules Milner-Brage; Miriam Aschkenasy; Joanna Baker; Chris Chanyasulkit; John Doggett; Andre Fische; John Freeman; David Gacloch; Fran Hoy; Werner Lohe; Paul Saner; Lee Selwyn; Barbara Senecal; ada.tadmor@gmail.com; John VanScoyoc; Cliff Brown; Paula K Friedman; kgoldstein@brooklinelaw.com; Fred Levitan; Roger Lipson; Pam Lodish; Shaari Mittel (shaarimittel@aol.com); Kathleen O'Connell; Carlos Ridruejo; Lynda Roseman; Youkavet Samih; Sharon Schoffman; Jennifer Segel; Isaac Silberberg; sassan z; Eileen Berger; Coffin Abby; Lisa Cunningham; Jason Cunningham; jmflanagan7@gmail.com; Barbara Gutman; John Hall; Benedicte Hollowell; Janice Kahn; kkauf@comcast.net; Ira Krepchin; Richard Nangle; David Pearlman; Kea van der Ziel; Saralynn Allaire; Laura Baines-Walsh; Adrienne Bowman; Steve Chiument; Regina Frawley; Scott Gladstone; Michael Harrington; Julie Jette; Alisa Jonas; Judith; Puja Mehta; William Pu; Nathan; Timothy Sullivan; cthall68@comcast.net; Ben Birnbaum; janetgelb@comcast.net; Steve Kanes; Carol Levin; Christine Westphal; Sand Gadsb; Nancy Heller; Vitolo, Tommy - Rep. (HOU); Pat Ward; Richard Benka; Betsy DeWitt; edward.coppinger@mahouse.gov; cynthia.creem@masenate.gov; nika.elugardo@mahouse.gov; michael.moran@mahouse.gov; Sharon Abramowitz; carolaxelrod@gmail.com; Helen Charlupski; Susan Cohen; Susan Wolf Ditkoff; bbd018@aol.com; Suzanne Federspiel; jfigler@yahoo.com; viviengoldman@comcast.net; Regina Healy; m.jacobs@mhjassociates.com; Judy Katz; krlivingston@comcast.net; ctroyen@mfa.org; kmpage@koinonialaw.com; Jennifer Monopoli; julie_schreiner_oldham@psbma.org; sullivanjme@verizon.net

Subject: Re: We Want Our Teacher

Dear Erica:

Congratulations on your graduation! Also, thank you for your activism. Your generation is our best hope for the future. Young people like yourself have been behind many important changes throughout history.

I know Mike Offner and respect him, but need to make one correction. This is not between the School Committee and the Brookline Educators Union. The town budget has over \$300,000,000 dollars in it. Ten days ago the schools had a deficit of \$6.3 million dollars. On Thursday that deficit was \$500 thousand. Some of this money came from the Town budget. None of it required a negotiation with the teacher's union.

I want to let you know that I am a 6/7 grade science teacher at Heath. I'm sorry that you and I didn't get to study science together, but I look forward to doing so with your brother in a few years.

Once again, I congratulate and thank you,

Bob Miller

--

Bob Miller
Town Meeting Member, Precinct 8
#AllEducatorsAreEssential
#BlackLivesMatter

On Mon, Jun 8, 2020 at 1:23 PM Mike Offner <mikeoffner26@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Erica--

Thank you for your civic engagement!

I hope you will continue to engage in Brookline and far beyond on issues of concern to you. My children are at Runkle and I am deeply interested in our entire school system. Part of the recent issue has been how to divide up the "fixed pie" of the budget to which Carla alludes. That is, as Carla indicates, an issue of negotiation between the School Committee and the Brookline Educators Union.

Just as one simplified example, if one took the whole pie and divided by the number of teachers, that would yield an average salary that could be used to retain all teachers, and they would all make the same salary. That scenario is not realistic, but it is just to demonstrate that the issue is fundamentally a math problem to which there exist many solutions.

The School Committee and Brookline Educators coming to agreement on a mutually acceptable solution is an entirely separate matter. As far as I know, at this point they have now agreed on a solution that results in approximately 30 teachers being laid off for next year, far fewer than recently received layoff notices.

Of course, any layoffs are sad and disappointing. One might ask, "Why not just increase the size of the Town's entire budget pie?" We can do that, in theory, but it would require consent of the voters to raise their property taxes.

Brookline voters have approved tax increases many times, but in today's environment, it would probably be hard to accomplish that, given the financial pain and stress that so many Brookline residents are experiencing.

For sure, there are some extremely wealthy residents who are doing just fine, but there exist no legal mechanisms for simply "taxing the rich" in any meaningful sense.

I hope you will consider speaking at public comment opportunities at upcoming Select Board or School Committee meetings. I am certain that the Select Board and School Committee would welcome your input. Meetings are typically posted at least 48 hours in advance. You can check the schedules here:

<https://www.brooklinema.gov/calendar.aspx?CID=110,&Keywords=&startDate=&endDate=>

[https://www.brooklinema.gov/calendar.aspx?CID=79,46,42,43,84,86,40,73,36,68,34,31,30,29,24,26,58,62,71,74,85,59,72,76,69,87,](https://www.brooklinema.gov/calendar.aspx?CID=79,46,42,43,84,86,40,73,36,68,34,31,30,29,24,26,58,62,71,74,85,59,72,76,69,87)

Thank you for speaking up!

Mike Offner
Runkle dad
Town Meeting Member, Precinct 12

On Mon, Jun 8, 2020 at 11:29 AM Carla Benka <rcvben@earthlink.net> wrote:

Dear Erica,

Thank you for your email and congratulations on your graduation from BHS! Did you also attend Heath? Our daughter graduated from Heath in 1996 and from BHS in 2000.

It's important to know that State law says that Town Meeting members have no control over how the School Department spends the money that Town Meeting votes to give them. Last year Town Meeting voted to allocate \$117,385,106 for the Schools. This year, the amount that Town Meeting is currently being asked to approve is \$118,998,990. As you can see, there are no proposed cuts to the School budget; as a matter of fact there is a proposal to increase funding. It's up to the Schools to decide whether to use the money to retain all teachers; Town Meeting can't tell them that they must do that.

Thank you for advocating for education in Brookline. I'm glad that you had such terrific teachers and have learned so much, and I hope you have a great experience in college.

Sincerely,

Carla Benka
Town Meeting member, Precinct 13

On Jun 8, 2020, at 10:47 AM, Erica X. Wong <wongxre@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Select Board, Town Meeting members, and Advisory Committee,

I am Erica Wong, a senior who has just graduated from Brookline High School. I am writing to you to urge you to **reconsider cutting the funding** allocated to our Brookline schools.

I understand that the town is facing a budget deficit in the midst of this public health crisis, but I strongly believe that education in our town is a priority. I have since graduated, but I still have a younger brother in the 3rd grade at Heath School. With our teachers and programs being cut, I worry about the education he is going to receive.

Our education in Brookline is unique and only as good as its teachers.

When I first moved to Brookline, I was surprised and excited to have the opportunity to take such a wide variety of classes, from TV production to Metals. These are classes and skills that I would not have had the chance to experience if I were not in Brookline, attending BHS. I have taken Metals with **Ms. Elizabeth Brennan**, Advanced Drawing and Painting and AP Portfolio with **Ms. Donna Sartanowicz**, TV production with **Ms. Thato Mwosa**, World of Money with **Ms. Brittany Stevens** and Engineering Innovation and Design with **Mr. Aubrey Love**. These are the teachers who have made a significant difference in my education. Through their teaching and their classes, I have been able to figure out what I want to pursue in college, as well as learn to use art to cope and to innovate.

Metals with **Ms. Elizabeth Brennan** introduced a new medium of art and provided me with the guidance, space, and resources to explore a new interest.

Advanced Drawing and Painting and AP Portfolio with **Ms. Donna Sartanowicz** has empowered me with technical art skills, ways of utilizing self-expression to cope with my mental health and connect to a greater audience to cultivate social change.

TV production with **Ms. Thato Mwosa** has given me the opportunity to explore my filmmaking interests.

World of Money with **Ms. Brittany Stevens** has given me vital knowledge about how to navigate personal finances and understand investments, information that I otherwise would not have been able to learn in any other class at BHS.

Engineering Innovation and Design with **Mr. Aubrey Love** has given me the opportunity to cultivate problem-solving skills, teamwork, and innovation.

The work that these teachers do is so important. They impart vital life skills to students and allow them to explore the spheres of learning far beyond the mainstream subjects.

To my understanding, the town faces budget cuts yearly. However, I strongly believe that laying off teachers is not the only way to "fix" financial problems. These teachers are important to us; they have fostered strong bonds with students at BHS and continue to do so. They are **not dispensable**, and should not be the first to go during a time of crisis. I strongly urge you to reconsider other ways of managing budget cuts.

We stand with our teachers. We want our teachers to stay.

Yours sincerely,
Erica Wong
Class of 2020

From: Amanda Grindstaff [mailto:amanda_grindstaff@psbma.org]

Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 7:38 AM

To: sharon_abramowitz@psbma.org; david_pearlman@psbma.org; julie_schreiner_oldham@psbma.org; Helen Charlupski; suzanne_federspiel@psbma.org; Susan Wolf Ditkoff; Barbara Scotto; Robin Coyne; jennifer_monopoli@psbma.org; Ben Lummis; Lisa Portscher; Mike Sandman; Bernard Greene; Ben

Franco; Nancy Heller; Heather A. Hamilton; fhernandez@brooklinema.gov

Subject: Pierce Physical Education INSIGHT

Hello School Committee Members, Advisory Committee Members, Select Board Members and Superintendent Lummis,

First off, I hope this email finds you all well and healthy. Because there has been some confusion around what virtual Physical Education looks like and what's been happening during remote learning, we wanted to invite you all to take a look at what the Pierce Physical Education Team has been doing during "emergency" learning. The first link is a culmination of our weekly Google Slides. It has each week's lessons, both asynchronous lessons and recorded zoom PE classes, that allows students to watch and participate in a P.E. class on their own schedule (if they can't make our live times).

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1hTJwVRx9tCkNjR0ukx8rW6raYi5d2FOmgOU62HZivw/edit#slide=id.g865028088f_1_0

We also wanted to **invite you to attend one or all of our live virtual P.E. classes happening this week. The links and times are below. T,W,Th @ 8:30am.** By no means are we saying this is the way we want next year to look if we do continue virtually but wanted to give you a vision of how we quickly continued our curriculum given the circumstances. With more time to plan, a better schedule and more technology PD, we know we can make this the best possible, positive virtual learning for our students possible. In fact, next year it would be better to have smaller class sizes to maintain our personal connections with our students and provide meaningful feedback for assessments.

- **TUESDAYS 8:30am-9:00am. 6th - 8th Grade**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94300718598?pwd=Qm1DNG01QWpFdXhQVHpMRzB2TURqUT09>

Meeting ID: 943 0071 8598

Password: 3dfpME

- **WEDNESDAYS 8:30am-9:00am 3rd - 5th Grade**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83304317048?pwd=d3lQaWFYV3B6THloQ2U2TE94ejhGUT09>

Meeting ID: 833 0431 7048

Password: 2h5td4

- **THURSDAYS 8:30am-9:00am K- 2nd Grade**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88999406135?pwd=MTVWS2pzZXpZUnJtWitMcStUZlFndz09>

Meeting ID: 889 9940 6135

Password: 5D9azn

Thanks for taking a look and hope to see you for some morning workouts!

THE PIERCE P.E. Team

Amanda Grindstaff

Michael Miceli

Amanda Schoenfeld

Vic Cuzzuppe

--

These Pierce colleagues received a RIF notice (pink slip) on May 29. These educators are valued members of our Pierce community. Please contact the School Committee to share your concerns.

Pre-PTS Educators:

Hattie Venne

Elizabeth Watts

Kate Needham

Caitlin Gallagher

Maree Marcus

Heather Roberts

Maryam Rahmani

Stephanie Goodman

Carolyn Lattin

Ben Fishkin

Amanda Baranowsky

Lindsey Shaw

Michelle Gokarakonda

Tim Hintz

Julieta Roz

Jina Han

Literacy Coach:

Mikaela Newell

Librarian:

Amanda Krestchmar

World Language:

Krystal Avila

Lauren Finucane

Xiaoxue Cao

Leslie Prime

PE & Health:

Amanda Schoenfeld

Amanda Grindstaff

Michael Miceli

Vic Cuzzupe

ECS:

Leslie Fagen

Special Education:

Priscilla Perry

Barbara Keenan

Paul Auger

FY2021 BUDGET - TABLE 1 JUNE, 2020

	FY18 ACTUAL	FY19 ACTUAL	FY20 BUDGET	FY21 BUDGET	\$\$ CHANGE FROM FY20	% CHANGE FROM FY20
REVENUES						
Property Taxes	211,374,488	224,490,569	238,487,743	254,898,615	16,410,872	6.9%
Local Receipts	36,277,400	35,725,309	31,120,219	27,051,609	(4,068,610)	-13.1%
State Aid	20,352,973	22,112,759	22,386,947	19,455,995	(2,930,952)	-13.1%
Free Cash	8,354,017	8,427,936	9,081,257	11,065,403	1,984,146	21.8%
Other Available Funds	3,050,446	4,872,678	3,349,771	4,760,457	1,410,687	42.1%
TOTAL REVENUE	279,409,325	295,629,251	304,425,937	317,232,079	12,806,142	4.2%
EXPENDITURES						
DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES						
1 . Select Board	738,119	708,050	831,487	791,662	(39,825)	-4.8%
2 . Human Resources	755,582	498,780	648,415	594,485	(53,930)	-8.3%
3 . Information Technology	1,922,893	2,077,848	2,054,746	2,080,259	25,513	1.2%
4 . Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Rel	228,918	301,017	281,088	261,075	(20,013)	-7.1%
5 . Finance Department	3,372,305	3,280,214	3,447,845	3,286,233	(161,612)	-4.7%
<i>a. Comptroller</i>	588,341	650,453	705,540	686,819	(18,721)	-2.7%
<i>b. Purchasing</i>	661,607	724,872	744,019	697,235	(46,784)	-6.3%
<i>c. Assessing</i>	694,167	735,490	732,477	738,659	6,182	0.8%
<i>d. Treasurer</i>	1,428,190	1,169,399	1,265,809	1,163,520	(102,289)	-8.1%
6 . Legal Services	1,055,753	1,166,351	1,155,413	1,057,022	(98,391)	-8.5%
7 . Advisory Committee	21,427	23,805	28,520	28,520	0	0.0%
8 . Town Clerk	562,943	758,640	669,914	750,024	80,110	12.0%
9 . Planning and Community Development	1,006,669	1,184,050	1,235,485	1,123,926	(111,559)	-9.0%
<i>a. Planning & Administration</i>	665,737	795,520	788,247	764,962	(23,285)	-3.0%
<i>b. Housing</i>	83,864	79,632	102,096	97,683	(4,413)	-4.3%
<i>c. Preservation</i>					0	
<i>c. Economic Development</i>	257,068	308,897	345,141	261,281	(83,860)	-24.3%
10 . Police	16,151,311	18,578,613	18,159,039	17,503,066	(655,973)	-3.6%
11 . Fire	15,070,184	15,586,571	15,998,841	15,822,908	(175,933)	-1.1%
12 . Building	7,653,367	5,511,493	8,613,272	8,746,246	132,974	1.5%
(1) 13 . Public Works	16,336,101	16,069,996	16,015,170	16,008,198	(6,972)	0.0%
<i>a. Administration</i>	885,065	911,556	954,995	950,304	(4,691)	-0.5%
<i>b. Engineering/Transportation</i>	1,179,727	1,306,949	1,374,345	1,350,119	(24,226)	-1.8%
<i>c. Highway</i>	4,944,741	5,532,652	5,348,245	5,103,753	(244,492)	-4.6%
<i>d. Sanitation</i>	3,267,293	3,246,937	3,586,207	4,030,333	444,126	12.4%
<i>e. Parks and Open Space</i>	3,766,756	3,912,389	4,166,568	3,988,879	(177,689)	-4.3%
<i>f. Snow and Ice</i>	2,292,518	1,159,513	584,810	584,810	0	0.0%
14 . Library	4,147,017	4,249,242	4,317,382	3,960,760	(356,622)	-8.3%
15 . Health and Human Services	1,181,028	1,408,011	1,405,442	1,568,639	163,197	11.6%
16 . Veterans' Services	303,845	201,513	346,074	312,087	(33,987)	-9.8%
17 . Council on Aging	902,328	954,436	992,321	913,379	(78,942)	-8.0%
18 . Recreation	1,027,649	983,211	1,116,669	1,034,617	(82,052)	-7.3%
(2) 19 . Personnel Services Reserve	715,000	715,000	715,000	715,000	0	0.0%
(2) 20 . Collective Bargaining - Town	784,317	1,400,693	2,470,000	1,910,000	(560,000)	-22.7%
<i>Subtotal Town</i>	<i>72,437,441</i>	<i>73,541,840</i>	<i>77,317,123</i>	<i>78,468,106</i>	<i>1,150,983</i>	<i>1.5%</i>
21 . Schools	105,196,458	110,918,206	117,385,106	118,998,990	1,613,883	1.4%

		FY18 ACTUAL	FY19 ACTUAL	FY20 BUDGET	FY21 BUDGET	\$\$ CHANGE FROM FY20	% CHANGE FROM FY20
	22 . Vocational Education Assessments	21,753	13,878	92,895	92,895	0	-
	Subtotal Education	105,218,211	110,932,084	117,478,001	119,091,885	1,613,883	1.4%
	TOTAL DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES	177,655,652	184,473,924	196,468,814	197,559,990	1,091,177	
	NON-DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES						
(1)	23 . Employee Benefits	59,317,285	62,487,155	66,438,626	68,518,848	2,080,222	3.1%
(3)	a. Pensions	21,519,358	23,785,769	24,915,433	26,569,845	1,654,412	6.6%
	b. Group Health	29,055,009	29,632,981	31,650,811	32,701,792	1,050,981	3.3%
	c. Health Reimbursement Account (HRA)	0	0	0	0	0	
(3)	d. Retiree Group Health Trust Fund (CRF)	4,480,080	4,570,465	4,781,980	4,181,979	(600,001)	-12.5%
	e. Employee Assistance Program (EAP)	22,825	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!
	f. Group Life	132,145	132,351	145,000	145,000	0	0.0%
	g. Disability Insurance	13,436	43,808	46,000	46,000	0	0.0%
(3)	h. Worker's Compensation	1,450,000	1,450,000	2,050,000	1,850,000	(200,000)	-9.8%
(3)	i. Public Safety IOD Medical Expenses	200,000	200,000	0	0	0	#DIV/0!
(3)	j. Unemployment Compensation	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	0	0.0%
	k. Medical Disabilities	15,709	18,846	40,000	40,000	0	0.0%
	l. Medicare Coverage	2,228,723	2,452,935	2,609,403	2,784,233	174,830	6.7%
(2)	24 . Reserve Fund	1,939,266	1,785,722	2,689,494	3,798,904	1,109,410	41.2%
	25 . HCA Reserve Fund	0	0	0	701,485	701,485	-
	26 . Stabilization Fund	0	0	0	1,000,000	1,000,000	-
	27 . Affordable Housing	576,803	545,112	200,000	0	(200,000)	-100.0%
	28 . Liability/Catastrophe Fund	203,644	456,762	389,700	49,729	(339,971)	-87.2%
	29 . General Insurance	334,959	416,563	507,952	703,507	195,555	38.5%
	30 . Audit/Professional Services	123,252	131,994	142,000	142,000	0	0.0%
	31 . Contingency Fund	11,874	14,754	15,000	10,000	(5,000)	-33.3%
	32 . Out-of-State Travel	110	1,677	3,000	0	(3,000)	-100.0%
	33 . Printing of Warrants & Reports	44,567	54,633	55,000	45,000	(10,000)	-18.2%
	34 . MMA Dues	12,588	13,121	13,553	13,891	338	2.5%
	Subtotal General	3,247,063	3,420,338	4,015,699	6,464,516	2,448,817	61.0%
(1)	35 . Borrowing	12,577,453	15,631,273	18,828,262	25,204,625	6,376,363	33.9%
	a. Funded Debt - Principal	9,007,500	10,195,000	11,952,053	13,674,000	1,721,947	14.4%
	b. Funded Debt - Interest	3,566,569	4,977,927	6,716,209	11,237,370	4,521,161	67.3%
	c. Bond Anticipation Notes	0	456,250	100,000	233,256	133,256	133.3%
	d. Abatement Interest and Refunds	3,384	2,095	60,000	60,000	0	0.0%
	TOTAL NON-DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES	75,141,801	81,538,766	89,282,587	100,187,989	10,905,403	12.2%
	TOTAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS	252,797,453	266,012,690	285,751,400	297,747,980	11,996,579	4.2%
	SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS						
	36 . Repairs to Garage Floors (revenue financed)					No motion	
	37 . Town Building Rehab/Upgrade (revenue financed)				60,000		
	38 . Fire Station Alerting System Replacement (revenue financed)				450,000		
	39 . Police/Fire Radio Infrastructure (revenue financed)				900,000		
	40 . Traffic Calming / Safety Improvements (transfer from parking meter fund)				81,500		
	41 . Bicycle Access Improvements (revenue financed)				125,000		
	42 . Parking Meters (transfer from Parking Meter Fund)				216,000		
	43 . Street Rehab. (rev financed (\$1.79M) + Parking meter fund (\$859,916)+Re-approp (\$370,420)				2,649,916		

	FY18 ACTUAL	FY19 ACTUAL	FY20 BUDGET	FY21 BUDGET	\$\$ CHANGE FROM FY20	% CHANGE FROM FY20
44 . Sidewalk Repair/Reconstruction (revenue financed)				336,000		
45 . Stormwater Improvements (revenue financed Water and Sewer fund)				300,000		
46 . Water Meter MTU Replacement (revenue financed Water and Sewer fund)				265,000		
47 . Water Garage Elevator Renovation (revenue financed Water and Sewer fund)				260,000		
48 . Schick Playground (revenue financed)				0	No motion	
49 . Playground Equipment, Fields, Fencing (revenue financed)				310,000		
50 . Town/School Grounds Rehab (revenue financed)				155,000		
51 . Tree Removal and Replacement (revenue financed)				235,000		
52 . School Furniture Upgrades (revenue financed)				0	No motion	
53 . HVAC Equipment (revenue financed)				100,000		
54 . Underground Tank Removal (revenue financed)				0	No motion	
55 . Town/School ADA Renovations (revenue financed)				80,000		
56 . Town/School Elevator Renovation Program (revenue financed)				200,000		
57 . Town/School Energy Conservation Projects (revenue financed)				190,000		
58 . Town/School Energy Management Systems (revenue financed)				125,000		
59 . Public Building Fire Alarm upgrades (revenue financed)				300,000		
60 . Town/School Bldg Security / Life Safety Systems (revenue financed)				160,000		
61 . Classroom Capacity (revenue financed)				4,073,751		
62 . Water System Improvements (utility bond)				2,000,000		
63 . Wastewater System Improvements (utility bond)				3,000,000		
64 . Larz Anderson Park (bond)				2,200,000		
65 . Robinson Playground (bond)				0	No motion	
66 . Town/School Roof Repair/Repl. Program (bond)				3,100,000		
(4) TOTAL REVENUE-FINANCED SPECIAL	9,720,862	10,979,868	9,949,094	10,747,170	798,076	8.0%
TOTAL APPROPRIATED EXPENDITUR	262,518,315	276,992,558	295,700,495	308,495,150	12,794,655	4.3%
NON-APPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES						
Cherry Sheet Offsets	86,983	88,500	89,070	86,027		
State & County Charges	6,492,524	6,672,137	6,826,231	6,796,134		
Overlay	1,722,221	1,762,675	1,785,140	1,829,768		
Deficits-Judgments-Tax Titles	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000		
TOTAL NON-APPROPRIATED EXPEND	8,326,728	8,548,312	8,725,441	8,736,929	11,488	0.1%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	270,845,043	285,540,869	304,425,936	317,232,078	12,806,143	4.2%
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	8,564,281	10,088,382	0	0	0	

(1) Breakdown provided for informational purposes.

(2) Figures provided for informational purposes. Funds were transferred to departmental budgets for expenditure.

(3) Funds are transferred to trust funds for expenditure.

(4) Amounts appropriated. Bonded appropriations are not included in the total amount, as the debt and interest costs associated with them are funded in the Borr

FY21 BUDGET - TABLE 2 JUNE 2020

Department/Board/Commission	Personnel Services/ Benefits	Purchase of Services	Supplies	Other Charges/ Expenses	Utilities	Capital Outlay	Inter-Govt'al	Debt Service	Agency Total
Board of Selectmen (Town Administrator)	771,679	6,880	3,048	7,900		2,155			791,662
Human Resources Department (Human Resources Director)	312,086	239,359	14,900	26,500		1,640			594,485
Information Technology Department (Chief Information Officer)	1,205,986	580,773	10,350	15,050		268,100			2,080,259
Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Relations (Director)	234,200	20,000	3,000	3,000		875			261,075
Finance Department (Director of Finance)	2,388,055	813,459	46,960	28,707	1,422	7,630			3,286,233
Legal Services (Town Counsel)	788,138	183,269	2,500	81,500		1,615			1,057,022
Advisory Committee (Chair, Advisory Committee)	24,380		3,275	570		295			28,520
Town Clerk (Town Clerk)	618,072	110,172	20,250	500		1,030			750,024
Planning and Community Department (Plan. & Com. Dev. Dir.)	1,015,630	91,034	9,712	4,550		3,000			1,123,926
Police Department (Police Chief)	16,098,207	516,731	147,857	45,300	298,802	396,169			17,503,066
Fire Department (Fire Chief)	15,235,941	151,426	126,952	27,100	212,883	68,606			15,822,908
Public Buildings Department (Building Commissioner)	2,731,448	3,199,159	24,575	5,248	2,729,946	55,870			8,746,246
Public Works Department (Commissioner of Public Works)	8,529,486	4,687,159	983,420	45,500	1,054,902	687,730	20,000		16,008,197
Public Library Department (Library Board of Trustees)	2,828,566	191,264	629,122	4,700	263,984	43,124			3,960,760
Health & Human Services Department (Health & Human Svcs Dir)	1,253,699	221,514	35,100	4,120	49,421	4,785			1,568,639
Veterans' Services (Veterans' Services Director)	150,700	2,388	1,150	157,339		510			312,087
Council on Aging (Council on Aging Director)	769,123	48,418	18,846	4,250	67,042	5,700			913,379
Recreation Department (Recreation Director)	739,336	23,037	86,480	12,400	170,364	3,000			1,034,617
School Department (School Committee)									118,998,990
Total Departmental Budgets	55,694,732	11,086,042	2,167,497	474,234	4,848,766	1,551,834	20,000		194,842,095
DEBT SERVICE									
Debt Service (Director of Finance)								25,204,625	25,204,625
Total Debt Service								25,204,625	25,204,625
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS									
Contributory Pensions Contribution (Director of Finance)	26,569,845								26,569,845
Group Health Insurance (Human Resources Director)	32,701,792								32,701,792
Retiree Group Health Insurance - OPEB's (Director of Finance)	4,181,979								4,181,979
Group Life Insurance (Human Resources Director)	145,000								145,000
Disability Insurance	46,000								46,000
Workers' Compensation (Human Resources Director)	1,850,000								1,850,000
Unemployment Insurance (Human Resources Director)	200,000								200,000
Ch. 41, Sec. 100B Medical Benefits (Town Counsel)	40,000								40,000
Medicare Payroll Tax (Director of Finance)	2,784,233								2,784,233
Total Employee Benefits	68,518,848								68,518,848
GENERAL / UNCLASSIFIED									
Vocational Education Assessments									92,895
Reserve Fund (*) (Chair, Advisory Committee)				3,798,904					3,798,904
HCA Reserve (Town Administrator)				701,485					701,485
Stabilization Fund (Director of Finance)				1,000,000					1,000,000
Liability/Catastrophe Fund (Director of Finance)				49,729					49,729
Housing Trust Fund (Planning & Community Development Dir.)									
General Insurance (Town Administrator)		703,507							703,507
Audit/Professional Services (Director of Finance)		142,000							142,000
Contingency (Town Administrator)				10,000					10,000
Out of State Travel (Town Administrator)									
Printing of Warrants (Town Administrator)	15,000	20,000	10,000						45,000
MMA Dues (Town Administrator)				13,891					13,891
Town Salary Reserve (*) (Director of Finance)	1,910,000								1,910,000
Personnel Services Reserve (*) (Director of Finance)	715,000								715,000
Total General / Unclassified	2,640,000	865,507	10,000	5,574,009					9,182,411
TOTAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS	126,853,581	11,951,549	2,177,497	6,048,243	4,848,766	1,551,834	20,000	25,204,625	297,747,979

(*) NO EXPENDITURES AUTHORIZED DIRECTLY AGAINST THESE APPROPRIATIONS. FUNDS TO BE TRANSFERRED AND EXPENDED IN APPROPRIATE DEPT.



TOWN OF BROOKLINE

Commission for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Relations

11 Pierce Street, Brookline, Massachusetts, 02445
Telephone: (617) 730-2326 Facsimile: (617) 730-2296

06/05/2020

To: Select Board
Advisory Committee
School Committee
Town Administrator's Office
Town Moderator

Brookline Commission for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Relations (CDICR) Statement on Needed Anti-racist Actions by the Town

Inequitable government policies and practices hold racism and white supremacy in place – even and especially right here in Brookline. There is an urgent need to change those policies and practices. While people may be eager to speak out, send money, and protest, recent events remind us once again we all must do more. We all must continuously act to make changes that address the racism, especially racism occurring right here in Brookline. If we do not act, these outrages will continue to happen, again and again and yet again. One key way to stop them is for all of us to start to address the most fundamental example of institutional racism: the fact that the voices of people of color are excluded from all levels of Brookline's decision-making processes.

The CDICR has recently called upon the Select Board, the School Committee, and the Advisory Committee to include marginalized people in the decision-making about the budget cuts that must be made as a result of the pandemic. We said in no uncertain terms that the voices of those most affected by the pandemic and the cuts must be at the table when discussions and decisions are made. The evidence of the need for inclusive decision-making is clear and present: for example, the pink slips that PSB has issued, which targeted teachers with less than three years of employment, has wiped out the painfully slow progress the schools have made in the past few years in hiring and retaining more teachers of color. This is a consequence of the union practice of seniority, itself another practice that keeps institutional racism in place. No one is innocent here!

And sadly, but not surprisingly, the last few days have also elevated another long-simmering example of people of color being refused a seat at the table: a sickening yet ultimately hopeful thread of emails exposing yet another racist Brookline practice - the process by which appointments are made to the Advisory Committee. Two qualified people of color were explicitly denied seats on the Advisory Committee. Less public, but of equal concern, are many of the so-called 'qualifications' for membership on a number of other Town boards.

Finally, despite the laudatory condemnation by Police Chief Lipson of the murder in Minneapolis, the CDICR is, of course, cognizant of the need for the Brookline Police to do far more than training if they are to succeed in becoming truly anti-racist - as outlined in the comprehensive letter about reimagining policing from Select Board member Raul Fernandez, presented at the Select Board meeting of June 2. Again, elevating voices of people of color to additional positions of power will advance this work.

The mandate of the CDICR is to proactively advance, promote and advocate for the elimination of discriminatory barriers; for better and more communication between all groups; and to increase the capacity of public and private institutions to foster social justice, inclusion and equity. To this end, identifying and articulating the patterns of racist policies and practices is core to our 'reason for being'. We see that Brookline is at a crossroads. We as a community can continue the racist practices and approaches that have brought us to this tragic point, or we can choose to change the way the town government does things. Let's start - right here, right now, in Brookline - to make the changes we know need to be made. To change the world we live in, a world of toxic injustice, we must start here at home.

So once again, the CDICR calls upon the governing bodies of Brookline - the Select Board, the School Committee, the Advisory Committee, and all the other boards and commissions, and sub committees of all those bodies as well as Town departments – to:

- 1) Immediately *include (as in 'diversity' and 'inclusion')* a range of voices representing those most affected by the decisions being made in all the Town's decision-making forums;
- 2) Appoint the qualified people of color who have already applied to the Advisory Committee;
- 3) Revise the process by which individuals are recruited and appointed to Advisory Committee and all other Town committees.
- 4) Create a task force to reimagine policing in Brookline.

The CDICR stands ready to collaborate in the implementation of each of these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Joan Lancourt, Ph.D
Chairperson
Brookline Commission for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Relations

