Date: 28 September 2016

Budget Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Members Present: T. Buono, P. Fitzsimmons, L. Richards, W. Hodges

Others Present: K. Lyons, K. Prentakis, K. Sherwood

T. Buono called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

The draft minutes for the 14Sept2016 were reviewed. *P. Fitzsimmons motioned to accept the minutes as presented. Second by L. Richards.* Motion passed unanimously.

The purpose of this meeting is to solicit feedback from the Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committees from Boxford, Middleton and Topsfield on Masconomet’s budget process. W. Hodges had contacted both committees in Topsfield and is arranging to meet with the Finance Committee sometime next week. P. Fitzsimmons met with the Boxford Board of Selectmen and they had no comments. She will be scheduling a meeting with Alan Benson, Boxford Town Administrator, to get his feedback.

K. Prentakis attended as representative to the Middleton Board of Selectmen and had the following comments:

1. Establishing a cap of what we think the voters would support, as a range of a percentage increase, when setting the budget priorities for the fiscal year. It was noted that this approach would need to be discussed with the full School Committee. It had been discussed in the past but was not well received as some members felt the committee would be penalized either way if we went above or below a set cap.
2. Continuous public education. We should revisit our messaging regarding per pupil spending as this past year we were slightly above the state average. We should note that we are performing an enrollment assessment to address the increase. We should be forward thinking in capital planning to prepare the public for expenditures we will have in 5, 10, 20 years down the road.

K. Lyons mentioned that the draft Facilities Assessment Report is complete and will be distributed to the School Committee on Friday. A walk-through of the Masconomet facilities will be held on Wednesday, October 4th at 6pm prior to the School Committee meeting at 7pm.

For the next meeting, the Subcommittee will review the Facilities Assessment Report and discuss potential budgetary impacts for FY18.

*P. Fitzsimmons motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:26pm. Second by L. Richards.* Motion passed unanimously.