



AMESBURY

CITY HALL
62 Friend Street
Amesbury, MA 01913

Municipal Council Workshop Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Councilor McMilleon called the workshop to order at 6:15 p.m.

Roll Call was taken.

Present: Councilor Moavenzadeh, Councilor Sherwood, Councilor Sickorez, Councilor Ferguson, Councilor Kelcourse and Councilor McMilleon

Absent: Councilor McClure

Councilor Lavoie arrived at 6:20 p.m. and Councilor Bartley arrived at 6:55 p.m.

Deirdre Farrell gave a power point presentation and passed out informational packets and thumb drives to the Council members.

The packet included: Amesbury Public Schools Revenue Report, Report and Recommendation of the MASS School Finance Task Force, Amesbury School District Technology Update, Amesbury School District Aspen/X2 Update; and Amesbury Public Schools Budget Development Process and Overview, which was presented March 5th.

The school budget is 26.3 million.

Deirdre Farrell explained the expense portion of the budget process including: level services, expense budgeting, guidelines, staffing needs and administrative requirements, operational expenses, and elective opportunities.

Councilor Lavoie requested numbers showing what the school administration levels are.

Councilor Sickorez asked for a comparison of Amesbury's administration level as compared to other cities/towns in the state and locally.

Deirdre explained the need to benchmark the right communities and said they are using DART analysis for this type of information.

Deirdre Farrell explained the revenue budgeting portion of the process including revenue sources and grants.

She explained the main drivers for both expenses and revenues.

The School Committee will hold a public hearing on the budget on March 18, 2014, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. (there will also be other budget workshops held in March)

Councilor Lavoie asked for a PDF of unfunded mandates.
Deirdre Farrell will provide that to the Council members.

Councilor Sherwood asked if there could be a joint meeting with Costello and O'Connor Ives, along with City Councilors, the Mayor and Superintendents to advocate for these improvements.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawne Warren
Administrative Assistant
Office of the City Clerk