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FOXBOROUGH, MA 02035

**TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 25, 2009**

Committee Members Present: Lauren Bitar, Jim Devellis, John Dustin, Michael Fitzmaurice, Thom Freeman, Bob Garber, H Hardie, Tim Kenneally, Jeff Rudd, Jenna Strickland, Brian Walton.

Members Absent: Gary Whitehouse

Others Present: Andy gala, Town Manager, Randy Scollins, Finance Director, Luis G. Lopes, Superintendent, Southeastern Regional School District, Dan Iaggata, Southeastern School Committee member representing Foxborough.

The meeting was brought to order at 7:30 PM by Jim Devellis, Vice Chairman.

7:30 – Luis Lopes came before the Committee to discuss the FY-2010 Budget for the Southeastern Regional School. L. Lopes explained there are eight towns plus the City of Brockton in the District and the budget has to be approved by all communities. He pointed out that the 2010 preliminary budget is \$20,229,701, less than the current budget. The assessments are determined by what the communities can afford and the State is responsible for the remainder.

Luis Lopes outlined proposed cuts to balance the budget – no replacement for positions that became vacant during this Fiscal Year, a wage freeze with some cuts to administrative salaries, implementing a four-day work week during the summer for some staff, a reduction in instructional personnel, cuts to supplies and educational materials and eliminating some after school bus runs. He feels these cuts are necessary given the economic situation in all communities. Superintendent Lopes distributed summary sheets for each town in the Southeastern District. The Assessment for Foxborough is \$320,658 an increase of \$40,241. Enrollment for Foxborough for FY2010 is up by five students, totaling 34 students.

A general discussion ensued with an explanation of the formula used by the State to determine State Aid for each community. Luis Lopes said it is a fairly complicated formula including the value of property, average income and enrollment. Also discussed was transportation, how that would be handled given the proposed cut back in after school bus runs. L. Lopes said the 2:30 bus runs would be eliminated to be absorbed by the 4:00 p.m. runs; basically students would be in school from 7:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and every effort would be made to consolidate where possible. He pointed out that because the 2:30 schedules would be eliminated, it would be necessary to add some runs at 4:00 p.m.

The Superintendent described the procedure for enrollment stating that they look at grades, behavior and personal interviews. He said enrollment for FY2010 is 360 students. The drop out statistics show that this happens when the students get their driving license and a car but about 80% of students finish the four year course. L. Lopes said he does not look on Southeastern as competition to Foxborough High School; he feels the students have excellent choices of public schools. He pointed out that last year is the first year on MCAS. When asked about the SAT performance, he said it is low because not many of the students look to going on to college. He does not see that as a negative thing for the school. He said there are about 84 Special Needs students. When a special needs student applies, the parents receive a letter asking for details on what accommodations the student would need. He said sometimes people are offended by that. Randy Scollins asked if the school received the "circuit breaker" aid from the State. L. Lopes said the school does not qualify for that because it is a small district and it would not meet the criteria necessary to utilize that benefit.

Dan Iaggata, School Committee representative for Foxborough, asked to speak. He congratulated Superintendent Lopes and staff for the thoroughness of this budget and his sensitivity to economic issues facing all communities. He pointed out that there are two new programs starting this year, Barbering and Surgical Technology. He said the school has to meet the same standards as Foxborough High School. He praised highly the programs that result in a Certificate of Occupational Efficiencies.

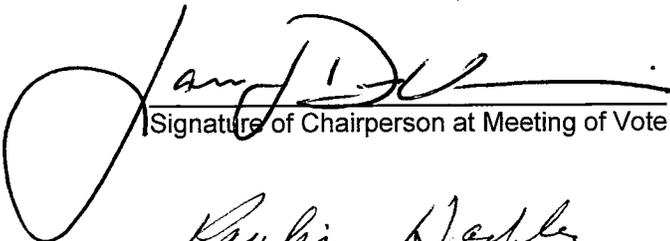
8:20 – Warrant Articles – Andy Gala, Town Manager and Randy Scollins, Finance Director, were present to briefly discuss the Warrant Articles. Andy explained that there would be a Special Town Meeting within the Annual Town Meeting. This is to address adjustments to the FY-09 budget that require Town Meeting Vote. He said there are three articles and possibly a fourth to be added for the STM. For the Annual Town Meeting, Andy pointed out there are three By-Law revisions that Town Counsel has drafted. Andy Gala also referred to the increase in health insurance and legal costs as two areas of concern. Randy Scollins said the good news is the new growth in commercial development. He said that would be a spike for next year but would not be there for FY-2011. He said State aid would probably stay flat. He pointed out that right now the Town could “probably push off” the problems that other communities are experiencing but it would eventually “hit the wall”. Jenna Strickland asked if the addition to the Charter school would have any ramifications for the renovation of Foxborough High. Randy Scollins said that he is hoping some of the money would “trickle down”. He said the addition to the Charter school does not necessarily represent an increase in the number of students. Andy Gala said the Town has submitted several reconstruction projects for the Stimulus list. He explained that the High School budget would need two Town votes – Town Meeting approval and then a ballot question for a debt exclusion. Andy is not sure if the ballot would have any effect on the stimulus package.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS.

Lauren Bitar extended an invitation to Committee members from ^{Deputy Chief Bagley} Fire Chief Hatfield to meet with him at any time if there are any questions about the budget.

Motion to adjourn by Lauren Bitar. Seconded by Tim Kenneally.
Vote: 11-0-0 Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes Approved by Vote of the Advisory Committee.
Date of Meeting: 3/04/09 Vote: 9-0-0


Signature of Chairperson at Meeting of Vote


Signature of Secretary at Meeting of February 25, 2009