

Town of Plympton Finance Committee Minutes
Monday, January 13, 2014
Halifax Town Hall, Halifax, MA

The meeting of the Silver Lake Regional School (SLRS) communities was called to order at: 7:05 p.m.

Members In attendance: Susan Ossoff (SO), Lisa Hart (LH), Max West (MW) and Marilyn Browne (MB). Also present were representatives of the finance committees of Kingston and Halifax, members of the SLRS committee and Rep. Calter.

Discussions

The 2014 underassessment by Plympton of \$106,000 and over assessment by Kingston for SLRS contribution that had been miscalculated by the Department of Education (DOE) was discussed. Rep. Calter noted that the minimum contributions calculated by the DOE were based on the Governor's January budget and not the actual budget as approved by the legislature that occurred after town meetings had concluded. This caused problems for many communities. Rep. Calter is looking into legislation that would mandate DOE to calculate the minimum contributions based on the correct state budget. He also said that he would try to get the House and Senate to vote on a consensus revenue amount that would let cities and towns know what their minimum local aid would be earlier in the budget process. This consensus revenue had been done previously but not in the past 5 years.

Rep. Calter also said recommended that communities expect only a 3% increase in local aide at this time.

Also discussed were the unfunded retirement accounts of many communities.

SLRS committee members presented a first draft of their budget for the upcoming year, showing approximately a 6% increase. Noted was an increase of one position in the middle school, 2 aides for children with special needs for the high school and the upgrading of 2 positions. There was also a discussion of the proposed technology budget of over \$500,000. All finance committees' voice concern over the amount of the increase. SLRS committee members said they were going to work on an actual or next version, of the budget. They invited FinCom members to attend their next several meeting to be held on Jan 28th, Feb 13th and March 4th at Silver Lake High School on the second floor.

After the SLRS members left there was further discussion of their draft budget. FinCom members would like to see and analyze the current various employee contracts as well as requesting monthly financial status reports from SLRS administration. Committees will forward questions on the budget proposal to Gordon Andrews of Halifax FinCom who will forward them to SLRS

Upcoming Meeting Date: The three SLRS communities agreed to meet again on February 3, 2014 in Kingston Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. after the next version of the school budget was presented.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion made by LH, seconded by MB, unanimous at 9:20 p.m. (MW left earlier)

Respectfully Submitted,
Marilyn Browne