



Have not settled on an override total, due to school department needing another 2 weeks to provide a number. Superintendent DeFrancisco, Rep. Day and Sen. Lewis will also be meeting with the OSC, who is meeting 1x a week and 3x over the next 5 days.

As a board, need to consider the cuts. Boys & Girls clubs didn't impact Stoneham this time but could in the future. Not dependent on federal grants, but state grants could be exposed if state coffers run low.

### **Challenges and Strategies for Budgeting**

Concerns were raised about the millionaires' tax and the need for realistic approaches to budgeting. Other members mentioned the importance of understanding the state's financial situation and the potential impact on local budgets. Mr. Allen emphasized the need for a substantial increase in the reserve fund due to federal and state uncertainties. Additionally, the lack over auditing / oversight to charter schools vs. public schools was mentioned.

Adm. Sheehan highlighted the importance of maintaining the stabilization fund and the challenges of converting funds to avoid certain changes.

### **Special Education and Teacher Attrition**

Special Education continues to be a major funding need, requiring more funding to hire staff. The Board requested more data on teacher attrition and the reasons behind it. The Board also discussed the competition for teachers and the need for better understanding of the local market, e.g. the importance of addressing pay differentials and the impact on teacher retention.

### **EMT Services and Ambulance Contracts**

The Board discussed concerns about the cost of EMT services and the need for more ambulances, including:

- Training required for firefighters to become EMTs and the additional costs involved.
- Contract with Armstrong Ambulance and the need for better understanding of the billing process.

**Mr. Joffe moved to table until next meeting; Mr. Lau seconded, passed unanimously.**

- The importance of providing EMT services to senior citizens and the need for more staffing.

#### 4. Long Term Planning

The Town Budget Planning Meeting discussed the impact of a \$1 million annual increase in health insurance costs and the need for better public works, including road maintenance and snow plowing. The board emphasized the importance of understanding the risks of budget cuts and increasing reserve funds. They highlighted the necessity of passing an override to address a structural deficit, noting that a 2.5% annual revenue increase is insufficient. The meeting also covered the need for clear communication about budget impacts, the potential for multiple override questions, and the importance of accurate ballot information.

#### 5. Updates

##### a. School Building Committee

Mr. Jacobs updated on progress with sports facilities.

##### B. Capital

Mr. Joffe provided an update on the capital committee, including the reorganization and the need to drill down on departmental needs.

##### c. Subcommittees

Stoneham High / SELC Dedication at 10am on 27-Sep.

#### 6. Other business – Non-deliberative

300th Anniversary Parade October 4th- Lauren Murphy soliciting walkers to represent the FAB

#### 7. Adjournment - Vote Required

**Mr. Lau seconded by Mr. Wilson. Passed unanimously.**