

Rochester, Jacqueline

From: Vanderslice, Lynne
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 1:47 AM
To: boardofselectmen; Kelly-Lenz, Anne; Rochester, Jacqueline
Subject: Budget Schedule

All,
I'm disappointed to share that my fellow first selectmen and I feel it is doubtful that we will receive the promised authority to allow us to hold something other than an in-person Annual Town Meeting. COST is sponsoring a meeting today, Tuesday, but I'm not holding out much hope.

Therefore, we will move forward accordingly. The following is the meeting schedule, which is a slightly amended version of what was discussed at our January 29th meeting.

- First Meeting-Budget Review: March 1st regular meeting
- Second Meeting-Budget Review: TBD week of March 1st
- Third Meeting-Budget Review, if required: March 8th
- Budget Due Date to BOF, based on 5/8 ATM: March 9th
- Presentation of BOS Budget to BOF: March 16th regular meeting
- BOS Preliminary Discussion of Bonding Referendums March 16th
- Public Hearing BOE-set by the BOF: March 29th
- Public Hearing BOS-set by the BOF: March 30th
- BOS Decision on Bonding Referendums April 5th
- BOF Budget Deliberations-set by BOF: April 6th -April 8th
- Presentation of Bonding Referendums to BOF: April 13th, BOF regular meeting
- Annual Town Meeting: May 8th
- Adjourned Vote: May 15th

Anne is finalizing the budget packet for distribution before the weekend. Hopefully you can clear time this weekend to review it. Please let Anne know whether you would like it in a digital or paper format.

We would appreciate your emailing questions developed during your review to Anne and me by Monday morning. Department heads will be at Monday's meeting. Please let Jackie know your availability for a second meeting next week.

We are beginning to investigate the logistics of the ATM meeting.

An outdoor meeting at the Stadium would obviously work best in terms of social distancing. Because of concerns with weather in early May, there is a statute, see below, that would allow the Board of Selectmen to again push out the date in the hope of warmer weather.

Unfortunately, the calendar isn't in our favor as the first Saturday in June is June 5th, which would mean an adjourned vote on June 12th, which is too late in case it is rejected. The last Saturday in May is the 29th, which is Memorial Day weekend, so that doesn't work. Nor is it a good date for an adjourned vote.

Bottom line, we would need to have the Saturday vote on May 20th at the latest. This means either an outdoor daytime meeting on Saturday May 15th or a weeknight evening meeting under the Stadium lights during the week of May 17th. An evening meeting could start at 6:00 pm. To shorten the meeting, BOE, BOS and BOF presentations could be recorded and distributed in advance. The only financial presentation would be the reading of the public notice. Nothing in the Charter, posted below, requires presentations at the ATM itself.

We are also investigating capacity for an indoor meeting at the WHS Field House with possible overflow in the WHS cafeteria.

We won't have a proposal ready for our March 1 meeting, but I hope to have had a discussion with the registrars in advance of Monday's meeting.

Thanks,
Lynne

Sec. 7-191b. Amendments to charters to modify budget adoption dates. Notwithstanding the provisions of this title and chapters 164, 170 and 204 and any special act, municipal charter or home rule ordinance, a municipality, upon a two-thirds vote of its legislative body, may amend its charter for the sole purpose of modifying its budget adoption dates. Such budget adoption dates may include, but need not be limited to, applicable dates relating to an executive presentation of a proposed budget, public hearings, fiscal authority action, publications, referenda or final budget adoption. Any vote by the legislative body of a municipality pursuant to this section shall include a reference to this section. For the purposes of this section, "municipality" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-401.

The Town Meeting, at the **Annual** Town Meeting, shall consider the recommendations of the Board of Finance, and may, by amendment made and seconded, and approved by those in attendance, reduce (but not increase) the Board of Education's total recommended **budget**; individual line items in the Board of Selectmen's recommended **budget**; and the debt service recommended appropriation. The Town Meeting may not authorize any appropriation for any purpose which was not requested by either the Board of Education or the Board of Selectmen nor recommended by the Board of Finance. The Town Meeting may not reduce any proposed appropriation (the "proposed appropriation") below that amount equal to the legal obligation of the Town nor reduce the employer's pension or other post-employment benefits contributions below the actuarially calculated **annual** required contributions.