



**Town of Amherst**  
**Special Meeting of the Town Council, Finance Committee, School Committee**  
**and Library Trustees – Budget Coordinating Group**  
**Monday, November 9, 2020**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**Minutes**

*Complete video is available online: <https://amherstmedia.org/content/amherst-town-council-november-9-2020>*

**1. Call to Order**

Councilors participating remotely: Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Steinberg

Councilors absent: Bahl-Milne, Schreiber, and Swartz

Finance Committee members participating remotely: Robert Hegner, Sharon Povinelli, and Bernie Kubiak

Resident members of Finance Committee absent: None

School Committee members participating remotely: Heather Lord, Allison McDonald, Peter Demling, Kerry Spitzer, and Ben Herrington

School Committee members absent: None

Jones Library Trustees participating remotely: Austin Sarat, Chris Hoffman, Alex Lefebvre, Robert Pam, and Lee Edwards

Jones Library Trustees absent: Tamson Ely

Others participating remotely: Town Manager Paul Bockelman, Finance Director Sean Mangano, School Superintendent Michael Morris, Schools Finance Director Doug Slaughter, Library Director Sharon Sharry, IT Director Sean Hannon, Treasurer Cheryl Boucher, Comptroller Sonia Aldrich, Assistant Comptroller Holly Bowser, Collector/Assistant Treasurer Jennifer Lafountain, and Clerk of the Council Athena O’Keeffe

After confirming all participants could hear and be heard, President Griesemer declared the presence of a quorum, called the meeting of the Budget Coordinating Group to order at 5:35 p.m. and announced audio and video recording by Amherst Media.

School Committee Chair McDonald confirmed members could hear and be heard and called the School Committee meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Jones Library Trustees Chair Sarat confirmed members could hear and be heard and called the Library Trustees meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

Finance Committee Chair Steinberg confirmed members could hear and be heard and called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 5:39 p.m.

Note: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, this meeting of the Town Council was conducted via remote participation.

**2. Announcements**

November 19, 2020, 6:30 pm: Public Forum on the Budget – *Charter Sec. 5.3*

**3. Presentations and Discussion**

**a. Updated Financial Indicators – Town Manager Paul Bockelman, Finance Director Sean Mangano, Comptroller Sonia Aldrich, Assistant Comptroller Holly Bowser, and Collector Jennifer Lafountain**

President Griesemer welcomed members of the Budget Coordinating Group.

Town Manager Paul Bockelman, Finance Director Sean Mangano, Collector Jennifer Lafountain, Assistant Comptroller Holly Bowser, Comptroller Sonia Aldrich presented the financial projections for fiscal year 2022 budget planning.

Demling asked about the difference between level funding and level services.

Mangano responded that level funding is a budget with the same dollar amount as last year, not necessarily the same services.

Councilor Pam asked about loss of staff or furloughs.

Bockelman responded that the Town would like to retain staff.

Councilor Schoen asked about CARES Act funds that may be lost at the end of the calendar year.

Mangano responded that budgeted costs are not eligible for CARES funding.

Councilor Brewer asked that the Finance Committee pay attention to collective bargaining when working on the Finance Guidelines.

Sarat asked about debt service.

Councilor DuMont asked about the availability of materials.

Councilor Hanneke asked about school enrollment and how enrollment will be projected into next year.

**4. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting - None**

**5. Adjourn**

The Town Council, Finance Committee, School Committee, and Library Trustees adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Athena O’Keeffe

Clerk of the Council

**Record of Agenda Packet Materials and Documents Presented**

00. 11-09-2020 FINAL Special Town Council Agenda - Financial Indicators - Budget Coordinating Group

3.a. FY22 Financial Indicators Presentation - Final 11.9.20