

Our Town, Our Money

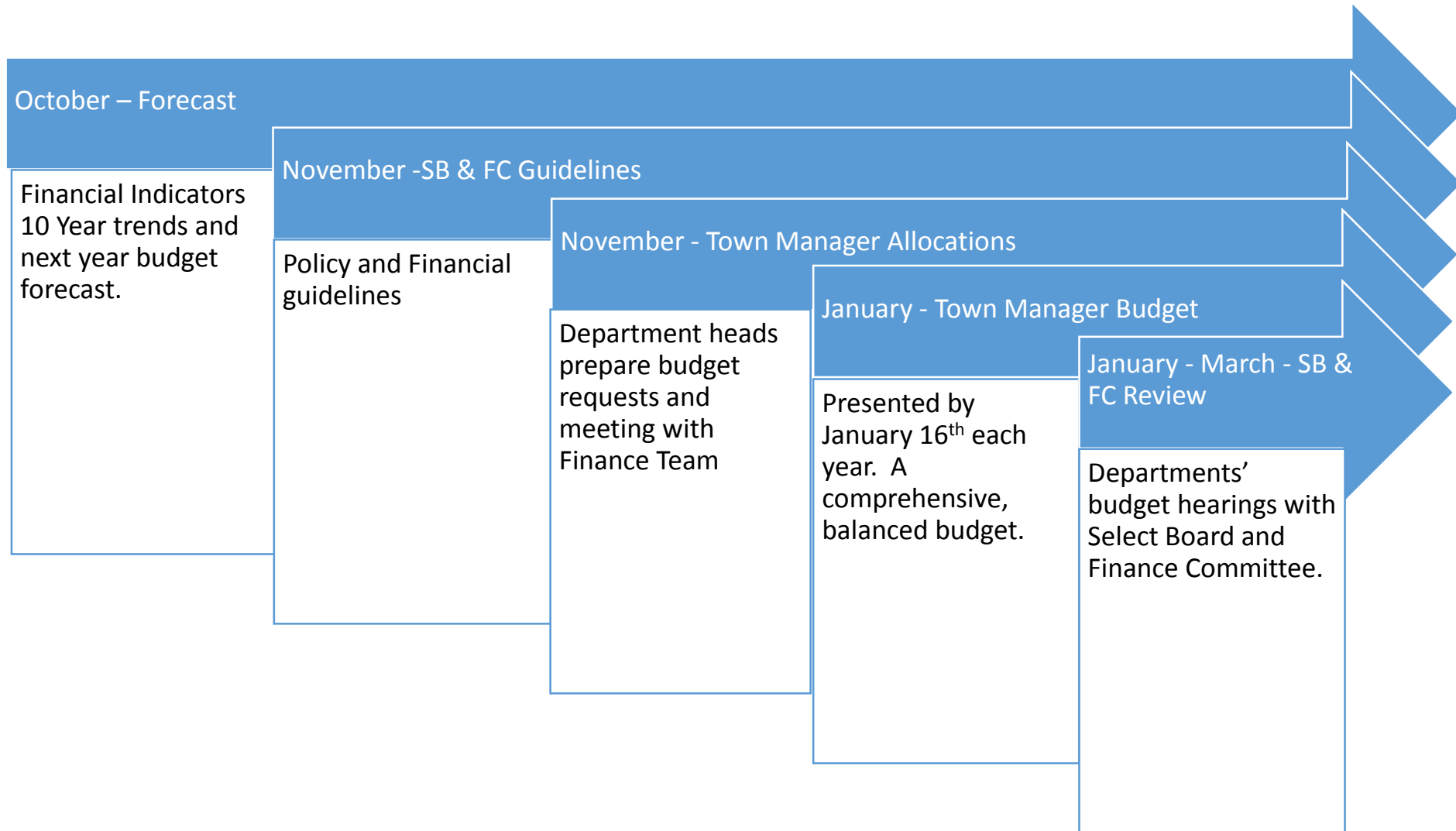


- Town Meeting Coordinating Committee
 - Town Room, Amherst Town Hall
 - 7:00 – 9:00 PM, Tuesday, February 17, 2015
 - **Peggy Roberts, TMCC, This Evening's Moderator**
- Sandy Pooler, Finance Director, Town of Amherst
- Kay Moran, Finance Committee Chair
- Sean Mangano, Director of Finance, Elementary and Regional Schools
- Gerry Weiss, former Select Board member

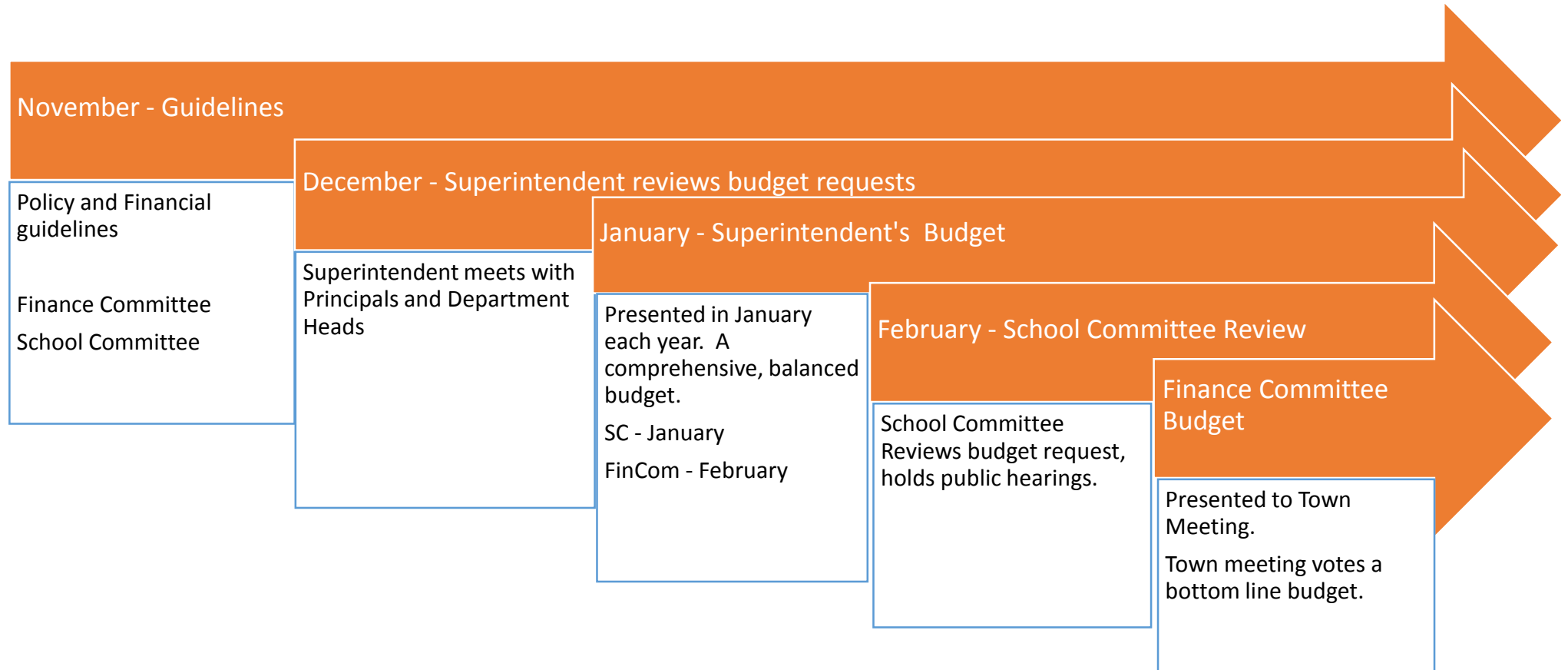
Agenda

- Introductions
- Town Budget Process
- School Budget Process
- Library Budget Process
- Capital Budget Process
- Who's who of budgeting: Committees, staff and their roles
- How and When to influence the process:
 - Operating budget – Potholes
 - Capital budget – Basketball court

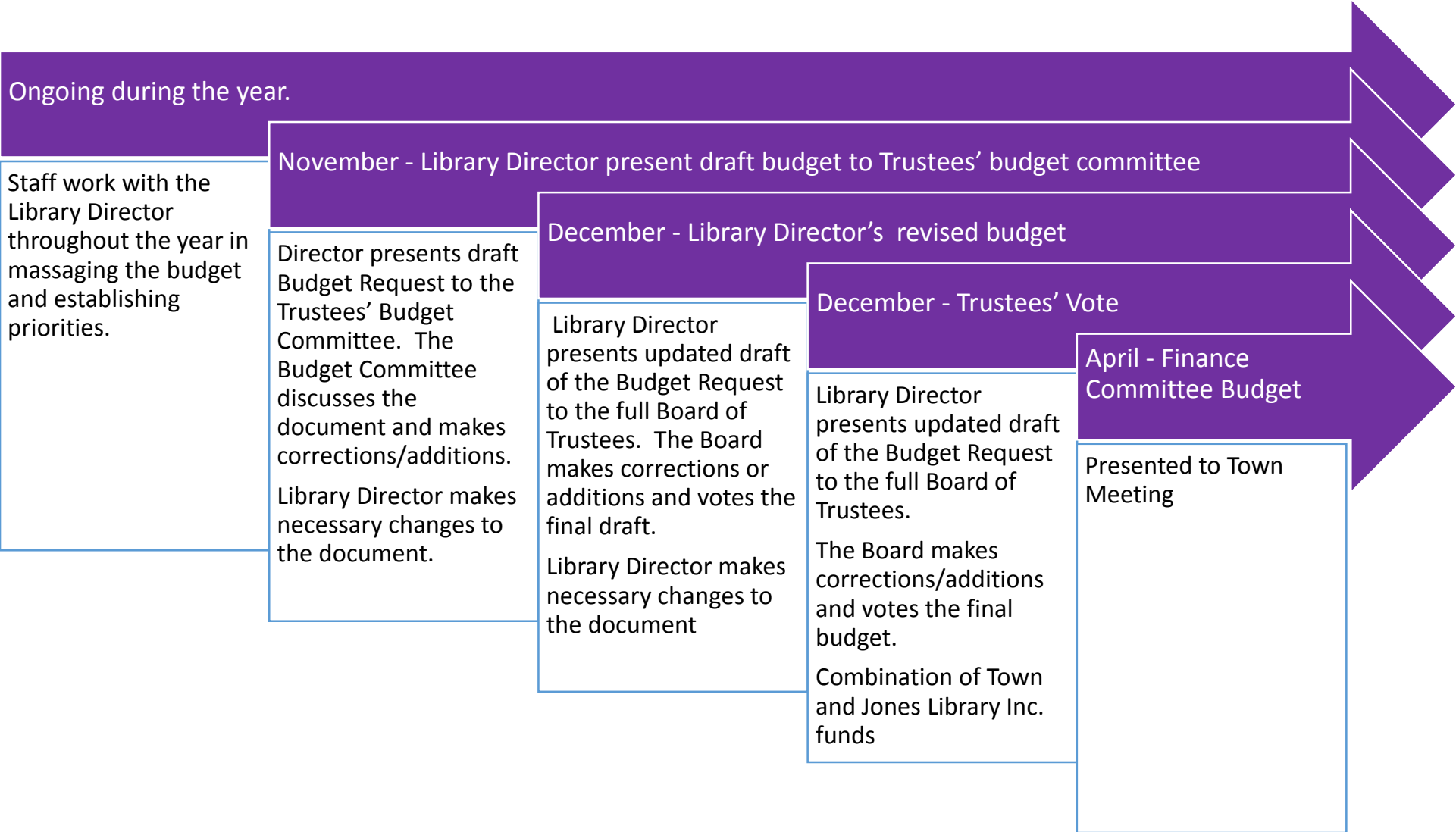
Town Budget Process



School Budget Process

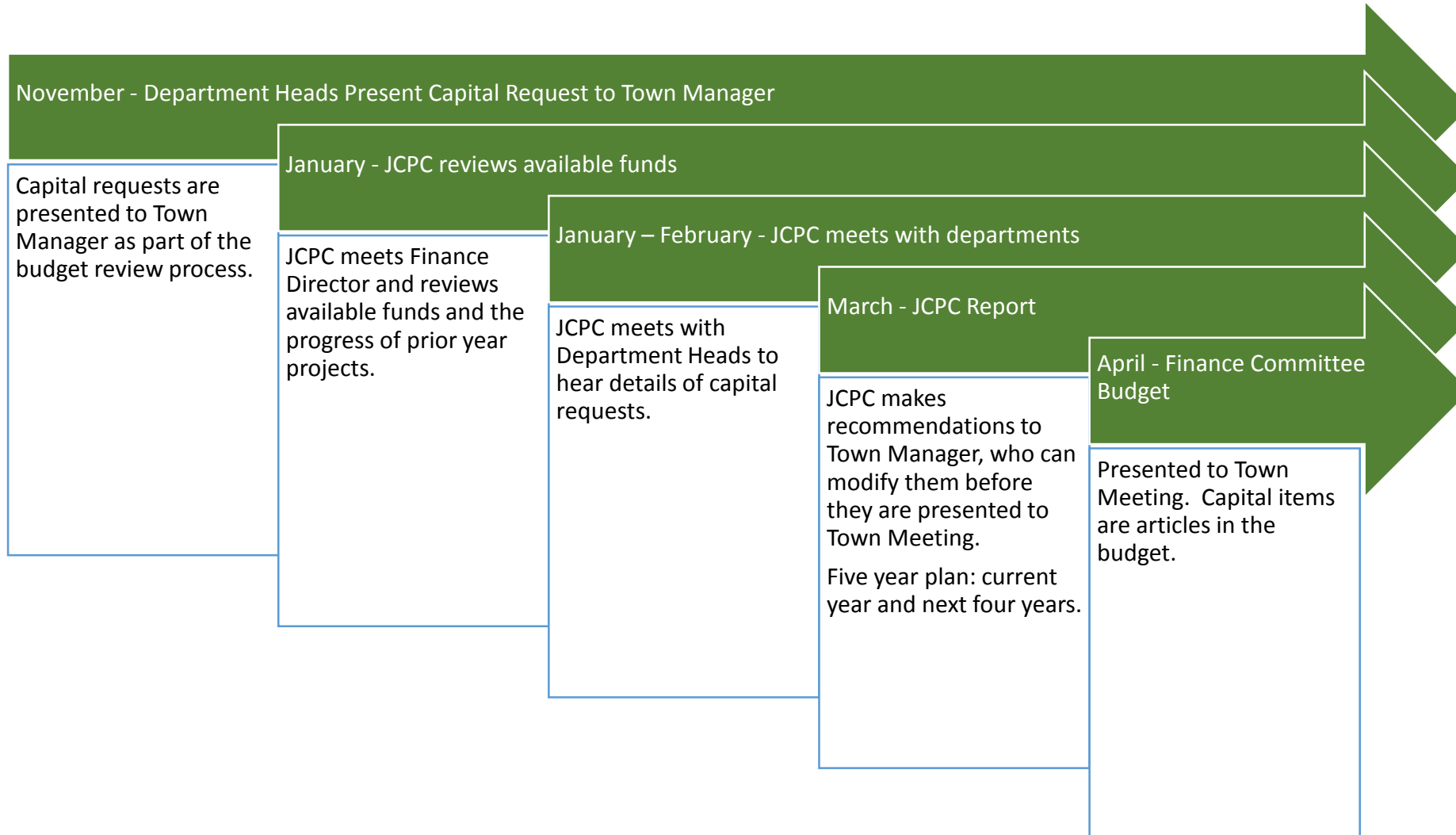


Library Budget Process



Capital Budget Process

Joint Capital Planning Committee (JCPC)



People and Committees who influence the budget

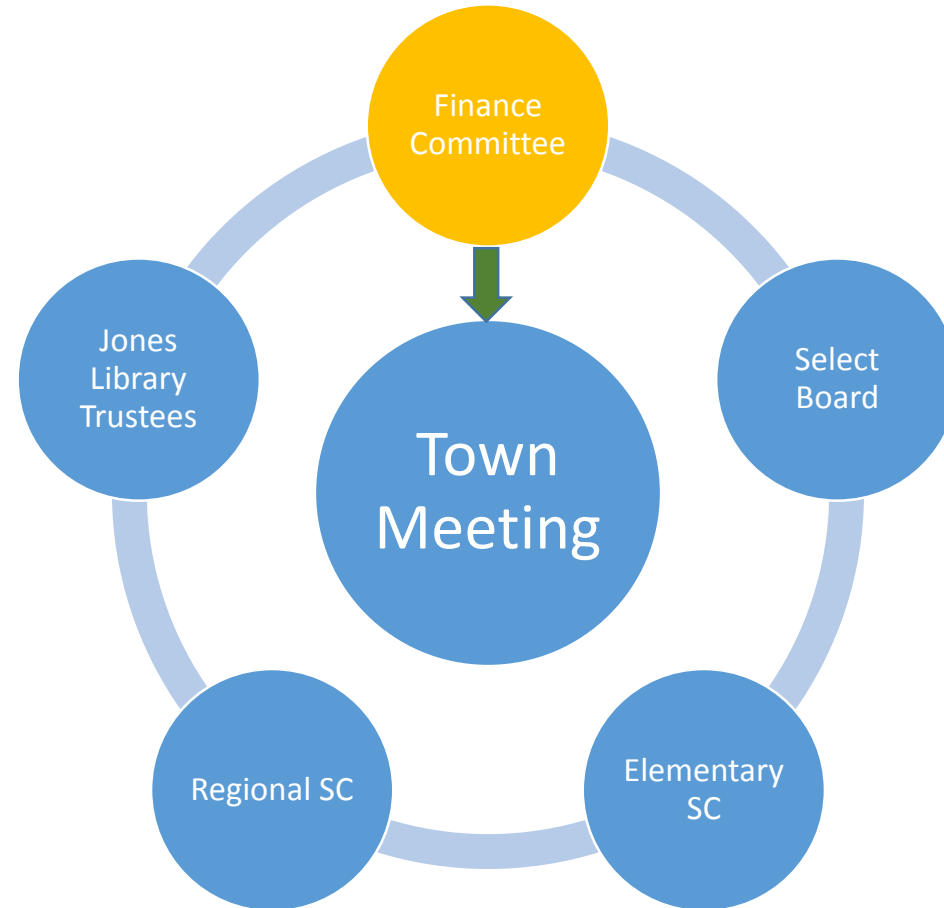
- Within Amherst

- Department Heads and their staff
- Town Manager
- Select Board
- JCPC
- School Committee
- Library Trustees
- Finance Committee
- Other boards and committees:
 - Public Works Committee
 - LSSE Commission

- Outside Amherst

- Governor
- House
- Senate

Budget Committees



Operating Budget Committees

- **AMHERST SCHOOL COMMITTEE (elected)**
 - Oversees School Superintendent and development of operating budget for Amherst elementary schools.
- **AMHERST-PELHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (elected)**
 - Oversees School Superintendent and development of operating budget for regional middle and high schools. All members of Amherst School Committee are on Regional Committee.
- **JONES LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES (elected)**
 - Oversees Library Director and development of operating budget for Jones Library system.
- **SELECT BOARD (elected)**
 - Oversees Town Manager and sets policy goals for Manager's development of Municipal budget.
- **FINANCE COMMITTEE (appointed by Moderator)**
 - Considers proposed operating budgets and how they fit within limits of available revenue; recommends budget articles to Town Meeting.
- **TOWN MEETING (elected)**
 - Votes elementary school budget's bottom line only.
 - Votes Amherst's assessment for Regional budget and Regional school budget's bottom line. Three of the four towns must approve Regional budget.
 - Votes Town of Amherst's contribution to library budget.
 - Votes bottom line for each of Municipal budget's 10 sections.

CAPITAL SPENDING

- **JOINT CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**
 - Considers requests for capital projects from municipal departments, elementary schools, and libraries and recommends overall capital budget to Town Manager and Town Meeting.
- **AMHERST-PELHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**
 - Determines capital budget for regional middle and high schools.
- **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT COMMITTEE**
 - Divides available Community Preservation Act funds among allowable requests.
 - Makes recommendations to Town Meeting.
- **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
 - Makes recommendations to Town Manager about spending Community Development Block Grant funds, including capital projects.
- **TOWN MEETING**
 - Votes bottom line of capital budget articles recommended by JCPC. 2/3rds for debt.
 - Votes Regional Schools capital budget as part of bottom line of Regional Schools budget and Amherst's assessment.
 - May approve, reduce, or reject CPAC recommendations. May not add new ones.
 - Has no role in allocating or spending Community Development Block Grant money.

Potholes!

- Department of Public Works
- Public Works Committee
- Town Manager's Office
- Finance Committee
- Select Board
- Legislature
- Motion at Town Meeting
 - Motion can increase DPW budget, but cannot mandate spending on potholes.
 - A motion can increase or decrease the budget for one of the five functional areas, the School, library, or capital budgets. It can only reduce a CPA budget item.
 - Budget must be in balance by the end of Town Meeting
 - Identify funding source.



Basketball Court

- LSSE Staff
- LSSE Commission
- JCPC
- Community Preservation Act Committee
- Finance Committee
- Select Board
- Legislature
- Town Meeting Motion
 - A motion can increase a JCPC appropriation, but not a CPA appropriation.
 - Motion can increase spending for Equipment, Buildings & Facilities, or Debt (2/3rd vote)



Questions

And Answers!