



**Town of Ayer
Board of Selectmen and Ayer Shirley School Regional School Committee
Ayer Town Hall – 1st Floor Meeting Room
Ayer, MA 01432**

**Monday February 13, 2017
Open Session Meeting Minutes**

BOS Present: Gary J. Luca, Chair; Jannice L. Livingston, Clerk

BOS Absent: Christopher R. Hillman, Vice – Chair

ASRSC Present: Pat Kelley; Jonathan LaForge; Michelle Granger; Joyce Reischutz; Jim Quinty; Dan Gleason (arrived at 7:11pm)

Also in Attendance: Robert Pontbriand (Town Administrator); Dr. Mary Malone, ASRSD Superintendent of Schools; Bill Plunkett, ASRSD Business Manager; Scott Houde (Ayer Fin Com Chair)

Call to Order: G. Luca called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

MOTION: A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by G. Luca to approve the meeting agenda. Motion passed 2-0.

FY 2018 ASRSD Budget Presentation

Dr. Malone and Mr. Kelley made an FY 2018 ASRSD Budget Presentation to the Board of Selectmen.

G. Luca asked about the percentage the ASRSD was receiving for regional transportation.

Dr. Malone stated that is approximately 65% funded from the State and that the State has not kept its promise with respect to fully funding regional transportation.

Dr. Malone reported that student enrollment has increased from FY 2015 to FY 2017 by approximately 62 students or a 3.7% increase in student enrollment.

P. Kelley and Dr. Malone discussed the following with the Board of Selectmen: the trends of charter school and student choice; a summary of the FY 2018 Chapter 70 funds; the required local contribution for Ayer; revenues into the ASRSD; impacts of special education on the budget; and fixed costs.

The proposed FY 2018 Total Assessment for the ASRSD is projected to be \$789,939 (a 4.4% increase from FY 2017).

Ayer's FY 2018 projected assessment for the ASRSD is \$327,406 (a 3.0% increase from FY 2017) and Shirley's FY 2018 projected assessment for the ASRSD is \$462,522 (a 6.6% increase from FY 2017).

Dr. Malone presented the Superintendent's Budget which is designed to demonstrate all of the ASRSD needs. She also highlighted the following accomplishments of the ASRSD this past year which included a reduction in electricity costs of \$64,000; health plan design changes which saved \$60,000; the use of 1500 hours in labor

from the Middlesex Sheriff's Office for various projects; the partnership with the Cambridge Institute; the receipt of a \$60,000 donation from the Norton Family; the cost-sharing of professional development costs with other Districts; and the rental of the high school auditorium.

G. Luca suggested that the ASRSD consider pursuing the Green Community Designation from the Department of Energy and Resource Management for the purposes of receiving grants for energy conservation projects.

P. Kelley stated that the ASRSD may pursue a warrant article for a Special Education Stabilization Fund.

G. Luca asked what the ASRSD balance in stabilization was.

P. Kelley state that the ASRSD currently has approximately \$200,000 in capital stabilization.

G. Luca asked if the ASRSD has addressed OPEB costs yet.

P. Kelley stated that the ASRSD has not to date but needs to.

S. Houde asked about a capital budget for the ASRSD and what the ASRSD plans to do to address the plan/issue of a new elementary school.

P. Kelley stated that this is something the ASRSD realizes is coming.

J. Reischutz stated that we need a two Town Committee to study and plan for this issue. I would like for this to get started in the next six months.

Dr. Malone stated that we are still closing out the high school project with MSBA and improvements to the high school track are of an immediate need.

G. Luca stated that in the future he would like to see one elementary school for the ASRSD.

R. Pontbriand asked what the Town of Shirley's response to their FY 2018 Assessment has been.

J. Reischutz stated that it is "under advisement" by the Town of Shirley.

Dr. Malone thanked the Board of Selectmen for their time and their continued support of the ASRSD.

MOTION: A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by G. Luca to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. Motion passed 2-0.

Minutes Recorded and Submitted by Robert A. Pontbriand

Date Minutes Approved by BOS: 2/3/2017

Signature Indicating Approval: 