From: "Ottina.Kathleen <KOttina@whitman-ma.gov>" <KOttina@whitman-ma.go
To: Hillary
Bcc: hillary.kniffen@whrsd.org
Date: 2024-06-11 07:19
Subject: Re: how to fund the oparting assessment
Attachments: Hanson 6-17-24 Town Meeting strategy-revised.docx

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Good morning, Hillary,
It was good speaking with you yesterday. After learning that the WHRSD Capital Stabilization Funds are not available for appropriation I have revised my funding strategy to fully fund the School Operating Assessment. I still believe that the Finance Committee's practice of employing "sneaky methods" to hide tax dollars in accounts that are underused needs to be made public. So, my revised strategy is to use Free Cash to fund the $125,000 Reserve Fund and the $30,000 Unemployment Compensation Line that were both identified during the John Madden presentation on March 12 as two of those "sneaky" accounts. That generates $155,000 in levy capacity available for the School Assessment. Add $217,140 in Free Cash and the School BUdget is fully funded.
Attached is my revised suggestion with wording for a Motion to Amend. It leaves $254,889 in Free Cash, similar to Whitman's $277,677. But there is still over $90,000 in the FY24 Reserve Fund that will become Free Cash and who knows what other "sneaky" funds will be returned as Free Cash. And as John Madden himself said on March 12, “Free Cash is a luxury you can’t afford right now; you’re not meeting your operating expenses”. He wasn’t talking about school operating expenses, but the entire Town budget.

Best of luck tonight with you Select Board and next Monday at town Meeting. I have a Whitman Middle School Building Committee meeting tonight at 5:30 followed by Finance Committee at 7:00.
Kathy■

From: Hillary Kniffen <hillary.kniffen@whrsd.org>
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 3:30 PM
To: Ottina.Kathleen
Subject: Re: how to fund the oparting assessment

You don't often get email from hillary.kniffen@whrsd.org. Learn why this is important

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- Technology Services

Thank you Kathy.