From: "Hillary Kniffen <hillary.kniffen@whrsd.org>" <hillary.kniffen@whrsd.org>
To: Ottina.Kathleen
Bcc: hillary.kniffen@whrsd.org
Date: 2024-06-10 15:30
Subject: Re: how to fund the oparting assessment

Thank you Kathy.

The only issue is that last week when I spoke with Laura K, she said their legal counsel told them that they cannot use the WHRSD capitalization fund for the HMS HVAC.

This has led to some detective work from both myself and Kara Moser to try to figure out if that's accurate, and what else has been happening that people are unaware of.

I'm attending the select board meeting tomorrow, but all they want to do is beat us (me) up about the ESSER spending and the "31 positions" we hired.

I am hopeful that we can get this solved at TM, for if we don't it's pink slips but also playing roulette with the budget the commissioner will set. In 2019 he set a budget for Dighton-Rehoboth nearly $1 million dollars higher than the one they rejected. I worry what that precedence would mean for Hanson, and Whitman.

Thank you for this. I have baseball games tonight, but maybe later this week we can chat.

I'm curious to hear your understanding, as a finance committee member, of the ability to use the capital stabilization fund.

Thanks,

Hillary

On Monday, June 10, 2024, Ottina.Kathleen <KOttina@whitman-ma.gov> wrote:

> Hi Hillary,
> I've been in touch with Cathy DiPasqua-Egan about the school operating assessment. In speaking with her, I created a document that shows the way that Hanson can introduce a Motion to Amend Article 5 that will fully fund the School Operating Assessment. I've copied Cathy on this e-mail at her request.
> If you have the chance to listen to the March 12, 2024 Select Board Meeting, where John Madden,(former Duxbury Director of Finance and now a Financial Consultant hired by towns to recommend how to balance budgets) starts to make recommendations on how to solve Hanson's budget problems, he identifies Unemployment Compensation, funded with $30,000 in taxation, as one area where it should be funded with Free Cash to free up the levy. Kevin Sullivan replies "…that's one of the sneaky methods we use to generate Free Cash" . Meaning the Finance Committee has for years intentionally overfunded certain line items in Article 5 with levy dollars that are never spent and then turned into Free Cash at the end of the fiscal year. The other line item discussed is the $125,000 Reserve Fund.
> I am sending you a document that spells out the math and also gives you some explicit wording to use at Town Meeting next Monday to amend Article 5 to fund the $372,140 school operating assessment deficit. If your Town Meeting is like ours, you will need to provide your Moderator with a written copy of your amendment before you read it.
> I am available to chat if you want to. I really hope – for everyone's sake – that Hanson Town Meeting can be convinced to resolve this impasse next Monday and spare the teachers this anguish of receiving a pink slip.
> My number is 617-372-0188 if you want to discuss this further. Good luck. Madame Vice-Chair.
> Kathleen■