

EMORANDUM – OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Carter Terenzini, Town Administrator *Carter*
RE: FY '19 Gap Closing Plan
DATE: November 6, 2019
CC: Advisory Committee; Department Heads; A. Lamontagne



As you know, we anticipate a need to cut the Town budget by the amount our NRSD assessment exceeds our budgeted expenditure of \$6,611,514. The SelectBoard was authorized to make those cuts by Article 2 of the STM of July 18, 2019. However, the BoS did promise to consult with the AC and public at large before making these decisions.

That consultation process had been placed on hold pending a resolution of the final NRSD assessment. Despite three separate votes by the District Meeting for the same budget number, we do not yet know what our assessment is. In fact, we may not know until December 1. This leaves us with very little time to make our cuts in time to set a tax rate and get our bills out on time. As discussed with the Chair, this means we can delay no longer.

As outlined previously, we are distributing this memorandum to you and the AC now so you may begin your review of our suggestion. We ask that questions or suggestions be submitted to us as soon as possible that we might research them in time for the 11/21 public informational meeting. The AC has also been invited to that session. Coming out of that meeting, we are hopeful we get an NRSD number in time for you to take final votes on 11/26. If that does not happen, we will need to ask you to take a final vote on 12/04 despite it being a workshop.

Our latest proposals are attached. We have set up two columns with one representing what we anticipate the low end and one representing the high end of the assessment range we anticipate. However, a spoiler and "it will be what it will be" alert because, given it now appears the Commissioner of DESE will set the budget; this is completely out of local control and the low could be lower while the high could be higher. There is also the scenario in which the assessment is somewhere in the middle. Should that happen, although the cuts have been placed in order of priority, we could set up a scenario in which we distribute the reductions needed across all identified cuts on a pro-rata basis.

Should the estimates of the "gap" hold, we have been able to reduce the impact upon Senior Services, Police and Highway. Nonetheless they are severe and – most unfortunately – they set the basis of where we will most likely start FY '21.

Original NO Cuts:

Debt

Recreation

Emergency Manag

Reasons

\$0 Statutory obligations to pay

\$0 Too small to absorb anything @ \$1,500

\$0 Too small to absorb anything @ \$1,500