

Greenfield Public Schools

Each Child's Success is Our Mission

Date: May 22, 2013

*To: Mayor Martin
Greenfield Town Council
Ways and Means Committee*

Fr: Liz Gilman

Cc: Susan Hollins, PhD

Re: Three Solutions to Relieve Pressure on the FY14 School Budget

Option #1

The Mayor can initiate a FY13 transfer request of \$400,000 from stabilization to the FY13 School Committee appropriation to enable the school department to prepay out of district tuition. Because the FY14 Chapter 70 is going to be significantly higher than what was budgeted, this ultimately will close to free cash. Stabilization could then be replenished from free cash.

Option #2

The Greenfield Town Council may decrease the appropriation for health insurance and increase the school committee appropriation by \$400,000. This may be done under the Charter (Charter attached). The health insurance account can be replenished at a subsequent meeting. The additional Chapter 70 funds or the 2 ½ tax levy could be cited as the reason to be able to raise and appropriate the amount to replenish the health insurance account.

Option #3

The Greenfield Town Council may under Chapter 44 section 33 appropriate for a purpose not included in the annual budget (MGL attached). At several prior meetings, the need for a special education stabilization fund has been raised. The special education stabilization fund may be established and funded for \$400,000 citing the additional Chapter 70 funds or the 2 ½ tax levy as the reason to be able to raise and appropriate the amount.

Charter

require. In the presentation of the budget, the Mayor shall utilize modern concepts of fiscal presentation so as to furnish an optimum level of information and the best financial control. The budget shall show in detail all estimated income from the proposed property tax levy and from all other sources and all proposed expenditures, including debt service, for the fiscal year. The budget shall be arranged to show the actual and estimated income and expenditures for the previous, current and ensuing fiscal years and shall indicate in separate sections:

1. Proposed expenditures for current operations during the ensuing fiscal year, detailed by Town agency and position, in terms of work programs, and the method of financing such expenditures;
2. Proposed capital expenditures during the ensuing fiscal year, detailed by Town agency, and the proposed method of financing each such capital expenditure;
3. The relationship of each proposed capital expenditure to the capital improvement program required to be submitted under section 5-10; and
4. Estimated surplus revenue and free cash at the end of the current fiscal year, including estimated balances in any special accounts established for specific purposes.

Sec SECTION 5-6: ACTION ON THE BUDGET

(a) *Public Hearing* - Forthwith upon its receipt of the proposed operating budget the Town Council shall provide a summary of the proposed budget in a local newspaper of a notice stating the time and place, not less than seven (7) nor more than fourteen (14) days following such publication, at which it will hold a public hearing on the proposed operating budget as submitted by the Mayor.

(b) *Review* - The Town Council shall consider, in open public meetings, the detailed expenditures proposed for each Town agency and may confer with representatives of each such agency in connection with its review and consideration. The Town Council may require the Mayor, or any other Town agency, to furnish it with such additional information as it may deem necessary to assist it in its review and consideration of the proposed operating budget.

(c) *Action by Town Council* - The Town Council shall adopt the budget, with or without amendments, within sixty (60) days following the day the proposed budget is received by it. In amending the budget, the Town Council may increase or decrease amounts and expenditures required by law, or for debt service. If the Town Council fails to take any action with respect to any item in the proposed budget within sixty (60) days following the date of its receipt of the proposed budget, such amount shall, without any action by the Town Council, become a part of the appropriations for the ensuing fiscal year and shall be available for the purposes specified.

Sec SECTION 5-7: SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGETS; OTHER APPROPRIATIONS

(a) *Intradepartmental Transfers* - With the approval of the Mayor, funds appropriated for one (1) line item within the appropriation made for a particular municipal agency may be transferred to another line item within the same municipal agency. Whenever such a transfer is authorized by the Mayor, notice of the transfer and the circumstances under which such transfer was deemed advisable shall be filed with the Clerk of the Town Council.

(b) *Interdepartmental Transfers* - With the approval of the Town Council funds appropriated to the use of one (1) municipal agency may be transferred to the use of another municipal



PART I ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT
(Chapters 1 through 182)

TITLE VII CITIES, TOWNS AND DISTRICTS

CHAPTER 44 MUNICIPAL FINANCE

Section 33 Power of council to add to appropriation; conditions; limitations

Section 33. In case of the failure of the mayor to transmit to the city council a written recommendation for an appropriation for any purpose not included in the annual budget, which is deemed necessary by the council, after having been so requested by vote thereof, said council, after the expiration of seven days from such vote, upon its own initiative may make such appropriation by a vote of at least two thirds of its members, and shall in all cases clearly specify the amount to be expended for each particular purpose, but no appropriation may be voted hereunder so as to fix specific salaries of employees under the direction of boards elected by the people, other than the city council.