Question:

In recommendation #2, are you saying the amount to come from the General Fund balance should be the full \$1,400,00 (and the BOE Keeps the \$393,340 in their 1% to spend later) or just the \$1,006,660?

Answer Part 1:

Please note, because the 1% fund provides that the Town "shall" transfer these funds, the BOE has already planned the use of the 1% fund amount as part of the reduction to its FY17-18 budget. The funds were already planned as an offset, or reduction, so if the Town does not transfer the funds as the Ordinance permits, then the BOE will have to reduce more by that amount. These were not "surplus" funds but rather funds retained in FY16-17 to be used to reduce FY17-18 as per areas allowed in the Ordinance.

Answer Part 2:

Regarding the \$1,400,000 vs. the \$1,006,660 - the different scenarios being considered can make the specific number usage confusing, and we regret that situation and ask for patience as we it out with short turnaround times.

The BOE feels the \$600k additional reduction to the BOE budget below the 0% increase level (below the FY16-17 budget), which brings the BOE budget to \$38,733,948, is the total amount in the RBP that the BOE budget should sustain. Please note, such a reduction would bring the overall reduction to the BOE Adopted Budget of February 8 to \$1,442,012 rather than the \$1,835,352 that would result from the RBP.

Question:

Your recommendation #4 does not include "future tax relief" to residents if the impact on Tolland is less than what is planned for in this budget. Can you explain?

Answer:

The Board of Education does not control Town funds. The Town Council provides for future tax relief as it sees fit. The intention of #4 is that whatever was taken from the fund balance be restored first, and the remaining funds to make the Town and District whole should go back into their budgets. The BOE does not imagine a scenario that there will be funds beyond what was budgeted for both the Town and the BOE.

For instance, given there was no referendum setting the budget rate, if the state returned funds that allowed for the BOE Adopted Budget of February 8, 2017 to be fully restored, it would expect no more than that. The remainder would be Town funds to do with as it wishes, tax relief or otherwise. The term "Tax relief" is not fully defined here so we are not sure what term encompasses.