

**Tax Fairness Committee**  
**March 15, 2019**

The Tax Fairness Committee met at 8:00 am on March 15, 2019 in the Select Board Room. Present were members James Phelps, Walter Birge, Reinier Beeuwkes, Nancy Cronin, Bill Kemeza, Jonathan Keyes, and David Karr. Also present were Heather Bout, School Committee Member, and John Hickling, Finance Committee liaison.

The minutes of February 15<sup>th</sup> were approved.

Heather Bout described the costs of a new Middle School building compared with renovating the Sanborn building to fit all middle school students. She said that the Concord Middle School has been turned down twice for funding from the Massachusetts Building Assistance agency, but the School Committee will apply again. The tax impact on homeowners of modest income was brought up by Jonathan Keyes. The tax effect of a new building on the median taxpayer has been calculated at \$750 per year, and \$1,000 per year at the peak.

Reinier asked what about fund raising for the school, and naming it for the donor.

Jonathan and Nancy described the history of the Tax Fairness Committee to Heather, and how the Concord means-tested tax exemption is assisting 50 homeowners this year. Heather said she will help to spread the word about the exemption. Heather then excused herself.

In regard to the Massachusetts Assessors Association bill, David said that Lane Partridge had said that the MAAO was not opposed to the TFC amendments. Bill said that we should write up the amendments with help from Lane. Walter suggested that David should work with Lane and bring the amendments back to our next meeting. Then we should go to the Select Board with our proposed revisions. If the MAAO bill with amendments were to pass we would not have to get our current law made permanent.

Asked what other capital expenditures would the Town have to make in the near future, John Hickling said they would total around \$155 million. 2024 would be the peak year for all capital improvements. He said that construction costs are going up at 7% per year.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 5. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Cronin, Clerk