

November 23, 2020

**From:** Annie LaCourt

**To:** Arlington Select Board and Adam Chapdelaine, Arlington Town Manager

This memo is regarding the Minuteman Vocational Technical High School administration's intent to take on additional debt for a project to develop an athletic field complex. This project was anticipated when the new Minuteman school was built and is now being brought forward. Per the town manager and Superintendent Bouquillon's request, the finance committee has reviewed the financing plan for the project as outlined in the powerpoint presentation forwarded with this memo.

The total cost of the project is \$7,661,000. This was the lowest successful bid received. 80% of the required funding is available either in reserves or from the funds remaining in the MSBA project. \$1,909,000 must be borrowed. The debt service for this project would be the responsibility of the member towns and Arlington's annual share would be approximately \$77,000. However, the Minuteman administration projects that revenues from rental of the fields will exceed the total debt service. Superintendent Bouquillon has confirmed that rental income from the fields would be held in a revolving fund and used to cover the debt service and maintain the fields as per the schools bylaws. The rental income will not be available to cover the first year of debt service so member towns will see an increase in their assessments for the first year - \$77,000 for Arlington.

Once the Minuteman School committee approves this debt the town has 60 days to call a special town meeting to vote to express our disapproval. The finance committee reviewed the project and discussed the proposal and we recommend that the Select Board support the project. Although we recognize that we are taking on some risk if the field rental revenue is less than projected, we believe the project is worthwhile and that risk is reasonable.