**Amherst Budget Coordinating Group**
**Summary Points – November 19, 2009**

At our November 19th meeting, the members of the Budget Coordinating Group agreed that the following points would be conveyed to our home boards and committees:

- That the BCG representatives agree that we can't formulate recommendations regarding the size and structure of an override question (or questions,) or any potential reapportionment among the Town, School and Library budgets, until we receive the budgets and cut lists in January, as requested by the Finance Committee guidelines; and that we acknowledge that this will require intense work from mid-January through early February;

- That BCG representatives recognize that a key consideration is the projected effects of a successful or unsuccessful FY11 override on FY12; and that this consideration will inform our discussions and ultimately, our recommendations. As such, we request that the Finance Committee refine projections for FY12 and FY13 before the budget submissions are due in January. We recognize that projections for future years include significant variables and unknowns including the outcome of the FY11 override vote, State aid amounts, new union contracts, etc.

- That BCG representatives acknowledge the necessity of being able to address public questions and concerns about Town, School and Library expenses. We will try to jointly address those that cross all budget sectors (such as staffing and compensation trends) in a uniform manner; and we will help each other to identify potential questions and concerns in our respective budgets, which each of us might otherwise be too enmeshed in to recognize;

- That BCG will continue to clarify the information we believe will help to address questions about staffing and compensation trends, in order to be able to present comparable information across the Towns, Schools and Libraries.