



OFFICE OF THE
Advisory Board
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November 5, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Ron Mikol, Harold Simmons, Kevin Welch, Dana Metzler, Christine Muir, Joe Dean

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the October 1, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.

GDRSD

The location of the November 15 budget and finance meeting with the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District has changed from the high school library to the Prescott School. Ron has additional materials that he will email to everyone prior to the meeting.

Bylaw Review

Ron distributed copies of the Finance Committee's bylaws, with changes from Rich Larkin based on our last meeting with him. Each member of this committee is to review the changes and send additional suggestions to Christine Muir before Thanksgiving. Christine will incorporate all changes into one document to discuss at our December meeting and then pass on to Rich Larkin.

GLVRTHS

Kevin suggested that Dunstable's portion of the renovation budget is not proportional to the student population we send to the school. Kevin thinks it would be better for Dunstable if we could negotiate a school choice scenario with GLRTHS and Nashoba Valley Tech. He doesn't think we have enough students to justify funding capital improvements at GLVRTHS.

Dana and Harold felt strongly that the budget proposal should have gone before the town in a special town meeting. Ron answered that legally, the town meeting vote is only required if Dunstable planned to reject the project. However, we don't see a way of not allowing the project to move forward, as other towns have already approved it. Dunstable's only option out is to leave the consortium.

The only open question at this time is whether to debt-exclude the expense or build it into the operating budget.

Free Cash

Andrew Gould said free cash has been certified at \$397,495. Revenues for FY12 were higher than expected. Dana will get the actual revenue numbers so he can begin building the FY14 budget.

New Business

Dana has learned that the town did not need to transfer money to the Council on Aging budget in order to pay Ruth Tully; however, since the grant money has come in, we will use that to pay her future wages and any excess will roll into free cash at the end of the year. We'll remember this process for next year.

Dana will conduct his own review of police wages in nearby towns; this had been requested of the Selectmen over the summer but nothing has been received yet.

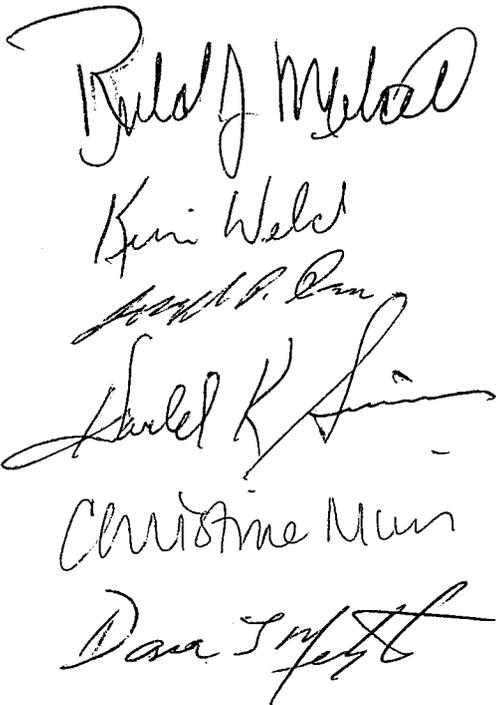
Library Director Mary Beth Pallis had requested a meeting about paying to stabilize the heating & cooling system in the library, but Ron said that meeting is no longer necessary. The library is contracting with a different company, not Johnson Controls, to fix the system. No additional money will be needed for the library, at this time.

Transfers

The board considered a request to transfer \$6916.05 to cover the cost of interest on Verizon's abatement of a 2009 personal property tax. Five approved the request, one voted against it. The transfer will occur.

A second request to transfer \$1320.35 to repay Verizon for construction work in progress was approved by all six board members. Dana noted that the total of these two transfers is almost a third of the town's total Reserve account balance, and he felt it was weighty enough to deserve consideration at a special town meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:10 p.m.


A list of handwritten signatures in cursive script, arranged vertically. From top to bottom, the signatures appear to be: Paul J. Welch, Keni Welch, Joseph B. Conroy, Sheryl K. Smith, Christine Mun, and Dana I. Smith.