



OFFICE OF THE
Advisory Board
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March 17, 2014

Present: Ron Mikol, Kevin Walsh, Harold Simmons, Joe Dean, Dana Metzler, Christine Muir

The meeting began at 7:10 p.m.

Transfer Station

We reviewed the Transfer Station's FY15 budget request. Dana had met with Kim prior to this meeting and they determined the station had revenues of \$65,000 from sticker sales and the recycling program and expenditures of \$76,000, leaving them about \$10,000 short. The \$11,400 town subsidy covers the shortage so the station could end the year even.

There is competition on the horizon that could raise challenges next year. At a cost of \$200/year, the station needs 380 families to purchase stickers to break even, if costs remain \$76,000. About 40 families have dropped since last year, so 278 sticker sets were sold this year. However, sticker sales to seniors have risen to 150 or so. They pay \$75/year.

The transfer station's costs are fixed and have been reduced dramatically with the switch from paying by the ton to using the roll-offs. Two roll-offs are in very bad shape and must be replaced at approximately \$8000 each. (They could be repaired for \$5000 each.) They should last about 20 years.

We discussed replacing the fence that surrounds the transfer station. The old one is continually hit by a large vehicle. The estimate for a new fence is \$15-20,000. It does not include a guardrail to protect it from getting hit. A slider gate is another possibility, but any bend would ruin it. We would likely provide an article for the fence and the new roll-offs. We could fund these from free cash.

Board of Health

The board of health requests a level-funded budget.

Board of Selectmen/GDRSD

Walter Alterisio and Danny Devlin joined our meeting to review the formal assessment from GDRSD. Walter wants to reject the budget and ask the schools to reduce the number even more. He asked the Advisory Board what number we should provide the schools as far as the amount the town can contribute. There was disagreement among the board members whether the current assessment is the "right number" or whether there's a better number.

Ron suggested that we could trim 5% from every municipal budget in order to avoid an override. Dana suggested that we push a \$250,000 override so we could keep the municipal budget whole. We did not reach a resolution.

Treasurer/Tax Collector

Bonnie Ricardelli sat with the board to review her FY15 budget requests as treasurer and tax collector. She basically level-funded both accounts, but added a 3% salary increase. She also provided numbers for a 20-year

bond versus a 30-year bond to fund the water department infrastructure upgrade. Dana noted that the payments for the first 10 years are similar, so the shorter loan saves money in the long term.

We adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Daniel J. Mitchell
Kemi Weld
Joseph R. Dean
Haniel R. Aquino
Christine Nun
Dana S. Snyders