



OFFICE OF THE
Advisory Board
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April 13, 2015

Present: Kevin Welsh, Harold Simmons, Ron Mikol, Dana Metzler, Pam Crocker, Christine Muir
Also in attendance: Madonna McKenzie, Selectmen Walter Alterisio and Danny Devlin

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

The board unanimously approved the meeting minutes of April 6.

FY16 Budget Review

We were not able to vote on the FY16 budget because of several outstanding questions and items. The recommended budget still needs some work to balance it. There is a new increase of \$16,000 in the town health insurance and a possible \$4,800 costs for NMCOG assistance in complying with the stormwater requirements. The Overview sheet of the Excel budget is incorrect because the line item for the Transfer Station subsidy, \$25,000, was not programmed to feed into the overview sheet; therefore, the budget is off by that amount. Madonna corrected the formula so it will work as needed in future renditions, but we still need to account for that deficit in FY16. While we may wait until a special town meeting, perhaps in the fall, to address the NMCOG expense, we need to find \$41,000 to cover the health insurance and transfer station costs.

Ron brought up the Library's lighting project, which had been funded by an article two years ago but which has not moved forward. More concrete information from National Grid has come forth, suggesting that the town may need to pay twice what was raised and appropriated to complete the project. National Grid would then reimburse the town for about 75% of the cost. We probably need \$14,500 upfront, and the reimbursement is expected to be \$9,850. Total out-of-pocket costs for the town would be \$4,700. The deadline to begin the project and receive reimbursement is July 15, 2015.

We also viewed the GDRSD "burn sheet", or expenditure report. It is very high-level and doesn't drill into individual accounts. It is not entirely clear what the sheet represents, but we think the district is anticipating a surplus of approximately \$1.8 million. This may not account for retroactive payment of teacher pay based on recently completed contract negotiations, so the number could be significantly lower. The Tri-Board meets again in 4 weeks, so we may learn more after that.

Free cash balance is currently \$374,000; we are planning to use \$200,000 to offset the tax levy in FY16, plus we anticipate using \$30,000 to pay for the two articles (town furnace and stormwater permits). So we expect about \$144,000 to be the remaining balance.

Harold Simmons
Ron Mikol
Dana Metzler

Christine Muir

Review of Town Meeting Warrant Articles and Motions

Madonna provided the most recent copies of the motions expected to be made at Town Meeting. We did not formally vote on them because we discovered many unanswered questions, including the following:

Article 5 – Community Preservation Committee request for \$25,000 for the preservation of documents. This is actually going to be an expense for the next three years, totaling \$75,000. Christine asked what documents are being preserved and by what method.

Article 6 – Salaries Elected Officials – The Recommended FY16 salary for the Tax Collector should be \$24,555 (not \$25,554) to match the budget being distributed at Town Meeting.

Article 8 – what is the actual dollar amount for Chapter 90 funding for the highway department?

Article 9 – GDRSD Stabilization Fund – Kevin and Christine said they do not support this article, and others questioned whether we would prefer that a Town Meeting vote be required to spend from this fund.

Article 10 – town hall furnace repair – Kevin asked if this is an expense that could be covered by CPA funds. Perhaps the town could be reimbursed for the expense.

Article 13 – the motion is not written yet. The board wants to ensure that the dollar amount is listed correctly and that it clearly states a contingency on passing the ballot on election day.

Articles 15 and 16 – missing the numbers for the Transfer Station and Water Department accounts.

Article 18 – motion is not written yet, for the CPC funding of the Agricultural Preservation Restriction on Tully Farm and the Conservation Restriction on the Miller property.

Article 21 – motion is not written yet for making Skytop Lane a public roadway.

Article 22 – we would like to see the Pay Classification Plan, but it isn't final yet.

Article 23 – use of free cash to offset tax levy. Currently the number is \$200,000 but that could change.

Article 26 – motion still reads "city of Boston" under Licenses.

The board did vote not to support Article 25, and we expressed an interest in not supporting Article 32 because we think the lowered acreage requirement is too low. There was general agreement that the number should be closer to 5.

We adjourned at 9:40 p.m.