



OFFICE OF THE  
Advisory Board  
TOWN HALL  
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May 23, 2016

Present: Harold Simmons, Christine Muir, Ron Mikol, Dana Metzler  
Absent: Amie Stevens, Pam Crocker

Also present: Tracey Hutton

Meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

Board Reorganization

The board reorganized as required by law. Christine Muir was voted in as Chair and Harold Simmons was voted as Vice Chair. Amie Stevens was nominated to serve as Secretary but was not there to accept the nomination. In Amie's absence, Christine recorded the minutes and Ron conducted the meeting.

FY17 Budget Review

In light of the failed override, Ron introduced the idea of needing to cut all budgets by the same percentage across the board or by a dollar amount based on the individual budgets. A budget that fully funds all municipal departments and the tentative new assessment from GDRSD (approximately \$638,381 over FY16) still leaves a deficit of \$796,381. We could use \$200,000 from free cash to reduce the number.

Without an approved budget, all municipal services would shut down on July 1. No spending would be allowed, except for salaries of employees who are not paid hourly. One path to prevent the shutdown would be to approve a "no override" budget at a Special Town Meeting, with additional motions to supply more funds contingent upon an override. GDRSD cannot operate under the same process, as they cannot certify a higher number at a later date.

A couple of possible reductions to the town budget include removing the transfer station subsidy, either by closing the facility or increasing sticker prices to cover expenses, and removing the raises recommended by the Personnel Board. These reductions leave a deficit of \$477,300. The library could also have to consider cutting hours to save costs.

There was some discussion around having GDRSD reduce their additional assessments to \$1.6 million, which is the "carry forward" costs needed to maintain positions and services from FY16 into FY17. Residents also expressed interest in listing specific cuts so others understand the impact of another failed override, and in getting accurate information posted to social media sites such as Next Door and Facebook.

Procedurally, the Town Clerk must receive a ballot question at least 35 days before the election is scheduled to occur. A warrant must be posted 14 days prior to a Town Meeting. Ron indicated that Tracey might re-send budget request sheets to department heads for re-submission, with direction on how much to trim from the original request. More information will be known after a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and Advisory Committee tomorrow night.

We adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

*Dana Metzler*  
*Ron Mikol*  
*Harold K. Simmons*