

OFFICE OF THE Advisory Board TOWN HALL 511 MAIN STREET DUNSTABLE, MA 01827-1313 (978) 649-4514 x222 FAX (978) 649-4371 advisory@dunstable-ma.gov

September 4, 2019

Present: Jacob Lewon, Kieran Meehan, Bob Nelson, Harold Simmons, Leo Tometich Also attending: Town Administrator Brian Palaia, Fire Chief Rich, Police Chief Dow, Public

Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m.

<u>Florence Roche replacement or new elementary school feasibility committee representative</u> With the resignation of Adria Fischer, a new AB representative is needed for the Florence Roche feasibility committee.

- 1. This committee meets as needed, typically at 6 p.m. on Tuesday.
- 2. After this feasibility study is completed, some of the committee members may transition to the building committee.
- 3. Continued until the next AB meeting.

Board Vacancy

We welcome Jake Lewon to the AB. There is one additional vacancy on the AB due to the resignation of Eric McKenzie.

Some discussion about lowering the number of AB members from six to five, plus possible ways to improve and increase public feedback.

- 1. Lowering the number of AB members from six to five would reduce the quorum number from four to three, thus making it easier to hold meetings when some AB members are unable to attend.
- 2. It would be easier to fill a five-member AB, but would result in one less voice in the budgetary process.
- 3. This transitioned into ways to get more public feedback on Town budget growth and spending priorities. 3.1. Possibly broadcast meetings? It sounds like the broadcast audio quality is often poor.
 - 3.2. Would the high school AV club be interested in recording AB meetings?
- Currently an Article is planned for the October 15th fall Special Town Meeting warrant asking for approval to change the number of AB members from six to five.
- 5. One other possible change could be to change from an elected AB to being appointed by the Select Board or Town Moderator.
- 6. No AB recommendation on being appointed or member change from six to five at this time.

Town Administrator Update

- 1. Fall Special Town Meeting on October 15th, 2019 preliminary warrant review.
- 2. Overview of the Proposition 2 ½ override process.

Review FY21-FY26 Budget Projection

- 1. Current preliminary expenditure projections indicate that a \$1.25 million override is needed to fund the next five years.
- 2. Additional input from Town Adminstrator, Chief Dow and Chief Rich.
- 3. The AB would like Select Board and public input on the budget projections and potential override.

Motion to adjourn - Kieran, - 2^{nd} Harold. Vote: Unanimous to adjourn Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.