



OFFICE OF THE  
Advisory Board  
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January 6, 2020

Present: Marie Gamache, Jake Lewon, Kieran Meehan, Bob Nelson, Harold Simmons, Leo Tometich  
Also attending: Town Administrator Brian Palaia, Town Accountant Theresa Walsh, Police Chief Dow, Public

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

**FY2021 Budget Town Administrator Update and Discussion**

Note that this discussion relates to the Dunstable FY21 budget as of this date and will change as new information is available. As of this date there is a working budget deficit of \$220,000. This draft FY21 budget largely reflects a "level service" budget on the municipal side with 2% COLA for most salaries including police officers. Employees on the town personnel classification schedule are eligible for a step increase every three years, so step increases are included where appropriate. Note that the police union contract has to be renegotiated for July 1, 2020. Brian stepped through numerous budget line items with explanations as discussion warranted. Additional police and highway personnel were requested, but not funded. The interim Fire Chief is reviewing the fire department budget. The GDRSD budget has a significant increase, at least in part due to reinstatement of the \$400,000 E&D budget line item that was waived last year.

The Dunstable FY21 budget is evolving and it is becoming increasingly apparent that there will be significant municipal reductions without additional revenue. Some discussion about what proposition 2 ½ override amount might be appropriate. Some criteria would be to set the override amount so it will be sufficient for at least three years, and maintain something near a 40% municipal and 60% school funding ratio. More projections and discussion as the budget evolves.

Motion to adjourn - Kieran, - 2<sup>nd</sup> Bob. Vote: Unanimous to adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.