



**OFFICE OF THE
Advisory Board
TOWN HALL
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March 25, 2021

Present: Michelle Bobkov, Jim Frey, Jake Lewon, Harold Simmons, Leo Tometich; Town Administrator Brian Palaia; Select Board: Leah Basbanes (Chair), Kieran Meehan, Ron Mikol; Police Chief Dow.

AB and Select Board virtual meeting called to order at 6:13 p.m. via Zoom Meeting ID: 843 2127 1383

FY22 budget review

1. Local funds for Dunstable from the latest Federal COVID-19 relief bill are expected to be around \$340,000 and available through 2024.
 - 1.1. The exact amounts and use guidelines are not completely defined at this time.
 - 1.2. The GDRSD will also likely receive some separate funding from this COVID-19 relief bill.
 - 1.3. Some of the lack of clarity is because the funds have been allocated to counties, and it is taking some time to determine the allocation for each town.
2. Since some debt is retiring or ending this year, we ended up proposing two separate FY22 debt exclusion warrant articles at the May 15th annual town meeting. One to replace the highway department end loader and a second to replace the fire department rescue truck.
3. Discussion with Police Chief Dow about the police department operations and impact of adding a ninth police officer.
 - 3.1. Dunstable dispatch cost through Groton. Overall good collaboration.
 - 3.2. The local impact of the Massachusetts police reform bill is still unfolding.
 - 3.3. Dunstable police department certification requirements and personnel retention.

Jim made a motion to support an override for an additional police officer. 2nd - Jake.

Vote: For: Harold, Jake, Jim, Michelle Against: Leo

Motion passed 4-1.

4. The Select Board voted unanimously to support an override for the ninth police officer.
5. The Select Board meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.
6. Moving the end loader and fire rescue truck to debt exclusions reduced the amount of free-cash for capital equipment, so some of this free-cash could be used to pay our Town Administrator for closer to the actual number of hours Brian works.
7. An Advisory Board column will be added to the FY22 budget spreadsheet.

Advisory Board bylaw section 1 (number of members) review

1. This discussion was started when two AB members resigned at the same time, resulting in some difficulty getting the four remaining members together to form a quorum for meetings. If the number of AB members is reduced to five, then only three would be needed for a quorum.
 - 1.1. Brian will check to see if a quorum can be defined by the number of current AB members.
 - 1.2. Put a placeholder on the ATM warrant that would reduce the AB from six to five members.

Motion to adjourn - Jim, 2nd - Jake. Vote: Unanimous to adjourn
Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.