



OFFICE OF THE
Advisory Board
TOWN HALL
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September 15, 2021

Present: Matthew Naughton, Michelle Bobkov, Jim Frey, Jake Lewon, Harold Simmons, Leo Tometich; Town Administrator Brian Palaia

Meeting called to order 6:31 at Dunstable Town Hall

1. Review/Approve Minutes

Motion: Harold Simmons moved to accept the Advisory Board minutes of Aug 11, 2021.

2nd: Jim Frey

Vote: Unanimous to accept.

2. Override Discussion

Brian Palaia presented an FY23 revenue estimate for the town, along with a worksheet that was used to track potential need for an override in 2020, as background for any potential future need to consider overrides.

3. Review 5 Year Projection from GDRSD

The board reviewed projections from GDRSD on their expense expectations and funding needs for the coming years. Board members noted that the projections were dated March 2021, and thus may not reflect the latest actuals, however they were delivered to the board in this form in June. Subsequent discussion generated a list of questions that the Board would like to have addressed by the GDRSD administration and School Committee, including changes in state funding, several expense line items that are showing unusual growth, FY21 final actuals, current state of E&D, impact of FloRo building project, and the impact of new expenses and emergency funding related to the COVID-19 pandemic. These questions will be forwarded to GDRSD administration by Brian Palaia, along with an invitation to be present at a future Board meeting to respond to the questions and discuss needs projections further with the Board.

4. Affordable Housing Update

Matt Naughton reported that the Affordable Housing Committee has retained a new consultant to assist with re-issuing an RFP, and that they are targeting this November to publish a new solicitation.

5. Water Department and Rate Increase Discussion (No Votes will be taken)

Jim Frey reported that he did not initiate conversations with the Water Department on behalf of the Advisory Board due to advice by town counsel that as a rate payer, there would be an unavoidable conflict of interest. Further, counsel advised that since three of the six Advisory Board members are rate payers, the Board is unable to consider any direct business on this matter because it will lack a quorum that is unconflicted. No further action by the Advisory Board is anticipated on this matter.

6. Attorney General By-Law Discussion

The Town By-Law change regarding Advisory Board quorum requirements, which was approved at the last town meeting, has been rejected by the state Attorney General. Brian Palaia reported that Dunstable town counsel believes an incorrect statute is being referenced in the decision to deny the change, and will contact the AG office to request a review of the decision.

7. Other New Business

Jake Lewon reported he was approached by Dunstable's School Committee reps, who have requested that the Advisory Board chair join and support efforts to develop a long term facility plan for the Swallow Union School. Jake requested support of the Board for this, with specific intent to play only an advisory role, and to bring matters requiring deliberation or decisions back to the Board.

Motion: Matt Naughton moved to approve this activity as presented.

2nd: Jim Frey

Vote: YES - 5, NO - 0, ABSTAIN - 1 (Lewon)

Next meeting tentatively set for Wednesday, October 20, 2021, 6:30 p.m., at Dunstable Town Hall

Motion to adjourn - Harold Simmons; 2nd - Jim Frey; Vote: Unanimous to adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.