

ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES OF APRIL 5, 2007 MEETING

Present at the meeting, Bill Johnson, Dottie Munroe, Marie Zbikowski, Leo Janssens, Belden DiVito, Jamie Piedrafite and Ed Tree. Also present Council on Aging Director, Mary Lee Muessel, and representing the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School, representative Diane Swenson and Superintendent Director for Monty Tech, Jim Culkeen, and representing the Ashburnham/Westminster Regional School District, Michael Zapantis and Sherry Kersey.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Director of the Council on Aging Mary Lee Muessel reported on the activities, services, and programs being held at the Senior Center. She reported on how these various activities are essential and vital to the senior citizens of Ashburnham.

Mary Lee expressed on how she felt the upcoming "study" of the VMS Building would impact the C.O.A. and how the study would lend itself to and for a senior center.

MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Diane reported that the budget for Monty Tech is up but the assessment for Ashburnham is down. Distributed to each member of the AB a copy of Monty Tech's "proposed educational plan" for fiscal year FY'08, in which included a Budget Summary, assessment and comparisons figures of the communities it serves. Also information on student enrollment, ratio comparisons between transportation and capital percentages, and student enrollment and budget histories. We discussed health insurance, and the methodical procedure for student enrollment at Monty Tech.

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mike Zapantis distributed reports which included information regarding student enrollment in 2003 and now in 2007, also a sheet indicating the FY'08 Revenues verses expenses.

Mike and Sherry passes out information the estimated town assessment assuming the \$28,271, 483 certified budget as of March 13, 2007, noting that the final budget for the schools will be certified on April 23, 2007.

Briefly discussed the move of the Town Hall employees to Oakmont, which included the security program.

OTHER MATTERS

After all invited guests had left the meeting; the AB had a discussion on the Board's responsibilities as far funding, budget questions, the proposed merit pay, and that we are not all that involved in the budget. What is our input into the budget?

Discussion on school figures, finances, and the school over ride. No revenue stream for the town, and Town Departments are taking hits for the increase in school costs. Discussed the suggestion of taking the \$190,000, which was Kevin's estimate for the schools and delegate to the police and fire departments to hire one new employee for each. What are the extra costs involved and would these costs be sustainable next year?

NEXT MEETINGS

Joint meeting with the B.O.S. scheduled for Monday, April 9, 2007 at 7 p.m.

Advisory Board's next meeting scheduled for April 12, 2007, at 7 p.m. and will be held at the VMS Building.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy J. Munroe