

TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
UPSTAIRS AT TOWN HALL
MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2013

Advisory Board members in attendance – Bill Johnson, Chair, Joe Oliveira, Gail Dumont, Nick Davis, Bruce Whitney, Belden Divito and Jaime Piedrafite. Also in attendance; Doug Briggs, Town Administrator, Police Chief Larry Barrett and Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator.

At 6:33 p.m. Bill Johnson called the meeting to order and stated that they would review the two Reserve Fund transfer requests first. Mr. Johnson explained the reason behind the first request for the IT account explaining that there were unexpected expenses. He noted that this request was for \$3,222.65. ***Joe Oliveira motioned to approve this request and was seconded by Gail Dumont. All in favor.***

Bill Johnson then noted that the second request was for the Veterans Services account in the amount of \$4,000 which was to cover additional benefits. ***Gail Dumont motioned to approve this request and was seconded by Bruce Whitney. All in favor.***

The discussion then went on to the Town Meeting warrant. Bill Johnson stated that the warrant had to be posted seven days prior to the Town Meeting date. He also noted that they had not met since the School budget meeting on Saturday, April 20th and the Wednesday, April 24th Board of Selectmen meeting. He distributed a handout listing the three budget scenarios before them for discussion, explaining each.

Doug Briggs stated that under the Board of Selectmen budget of April 24th, the Treasurer's line had changed to \$99,893, changing the total budget approved by the Board of Selectmen to \$13,336,064. He stated that as a result of his meeting with the Police Chief, Fire Chief and Highway Superintendent, they were able to come up with the additional \$110,000 for the school. He stated that he cut the Advisory Board budget by \$25,000, took out \$5,000 from the Treasurer's budget, took out the finger print machine at \$10,500 (which would come out of FY13 budget), took the Police radios out for \$7,200 (which the Chief will absorb in his present budget), took \$20,000 out of the Snow & Ice budget line, the Board of Selectmen voted no on Article 15, \$13,946, increased the state revenue by \$15,000, and lowered Snow & Ice contingency by \$15,000.

Mr. Briggs stated that he received the override amount from the District for Article 10 which was \$283,883.

He stated that the Board of Selectmen voted to not recommend Article 15 which is the Capital item for the School. A discussion followed on past Capital Item requests and Bill Johnson noted that they may want to meet with the School in the fall to discuss the Capital items issue. He also noted that they should add a discussion on the 2 ½ plus growth formula and added that he had some serious concerns about how they establish their budget. It was noted that they should give the Town their certified budget earlier.

Joe Oliveira mentioned that he advocated providing level funding for the school and that their budget is 49% of the Town's total budget. He noted that we should be consistent and continue with the 49% in FY14. Mr. Johnson stated that it was late to do this and there followed a discussion on school funding and Chapter 70.

It was noted by Belden Divito that when they talk about the 49% for the schools that they also should include the \$500,000 for Monty Tech.

Bill Johnson noted that the District came back to the Town asking to keep the excess Chapter 70 funds in the amount of \$40,885 but the Board of Selectmen voted not to return these funds.

At this time Bill Johnson motioned to not return the excess Chapter 70 funds in the amount of \$40,885 from last year to the School and Bruce Whitney seconded the motion. Five in favor, two abstentions.

Doug Briggs explained about Option 4 which he stated was the same as Option 3 but that they would not hire a paramedic and would work 18 hour shifts, 6:00 a.m. to midnight with Woods covering the midnight to 6:00 a.m. shift. There followed a short discussion on this option and revenue.

Joe Oliveira stated that he would support Option 4 with an additional \$29,000 more to the school and the Snow & Ice brought back to the \$180,000 budget amount. Bruce Whitney stated that he was also in favor of the Option 4 Budget. Belden Divito stated that Option 4 is tough as they need the fire support to make it work and that he was looking to support the Board of Selectmen budget with Option 3. He also noted that the school is an emotional issue and that we need to try to make it work.

Gail Dumont made the motion to go with the Board of Selectmen revised budget of \$13,336,064 and was seconded by Joe Oliveira. Five in favor and two opposed.

Jaime Piedrafite motioned to not support Article 15 for the AWRSD Capital Item and was seconded by Joe Oliveira. All in favor.

It was noted by Doug Briggs that he would check with Town Counsel on the wording of the motion for Article 15.

There was some discussion on the article for Retiree Health Insurance.

Doug Briggs brought up Article 22 which was for the PILOT agreement with tenK Energy noting that there was a change with tenK Energy now purchasing land off Gardner Hill Road as the other deal fell through. He stated that this will require another vote from the Advisory Board. ***Bruce Whitney made the motion to support the PILOT agreement on Gardner Hill Road and Belden Divito seconded. All in favor.***

Mr. Briggs noted that the last article, #25, had changed and it was now to put excess funds in to the Capital Fund if the demolition and remediation of the VMS doesn't pass. ***Nick Davis motioned to support Article 25 in the event that the capital items fall through and was seconded by Gail Dumont. All in favor.***

At 8:11 p.m. Gail Dumont made the motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Joe Oliveira. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Turcotte
Assistant to the Town Administrator