



**OFFICE OF THE
Advisory Board
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1/4/2010 Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Advisory Board Members Present:

Ron Mikol, Harold Simmons, Dan St. Jean, Joe Dean, Dana Metzler, Christine Muir

Meeting opened just after 7:00 p.m.

Carter Farm Land Purchase/Article 1 for Special Town Meeting of 1/25/10

Alan Chaney from Conservation Committee said that because the state did not award Dunstable the \$129,000 grant to purchase the Carter Farm property, the committee is requesting \$219,000 from CPA money to finalize the sale. There would still be over \$560,000 in the CPC fund to be used for any other purpose in the future. Other groups that might want access to this money have been notified of the Conservation Committee's intention and support it. Mr. Chaney does not expect any additional fees related to the Carter purchase and believes the conservation committee can cover costs if they do arise. We cannot apply for another state grant next year to reimburse our account for this purchase, but we could reapply if we hold off the purchase. Mr. Chaney does not expect this deal to fall through for any other reason, including another buyer showing up. Mr. Chaney reiterated that the purchase of this acreage give the town access to approximately 47 acres that were previously donated to the town, but are currently unused because there is no access.

The Advisory Board voted to support Article 1 of the STM warrant.

Route 113 Reconstruction

The Advisory Board was under the impression that an RFP would go out to collect bids for the 113 reconstruction project. Since this did not happen, there are concerns that the project may violate conflict of interest laws. Town Counsel Rich Larkin says engineering services are exempt from 30B laws, and both Larkin and the state engineer gave approval for the whole process as it has played out. Town Accountant Kim Fales says Jeff Ryder, town engineer, would be responsible for filing a disclosure statement to the state to keep everything above-board.

It was noted that the RFP process would have been beneficial to offer comparisons on the cost of the project. We have no way of knowing if the \$52,000 engineering fee we've been given is reasonable or comparable to other firms/projects.

GDRSD Update

At a recent superintendent's meeting, it was estimated that the FY2011 budget is approximately \$2.5 million short. This amount comes from \$1.6 million less in state aid, \$430,000 less in state transportation aid, \$200,000 short on circuit-breaker, and about \$70,000 in interest income.

FY2011 Revenue Forecast

We had a quick discussion of anticipated revenue for FY2011. Joe Dean is continually updating the new town budget spreadsheet with numbers from Kim Fales.

Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

Minutes from 12-7-09 were unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.