



OFFICE OF THE
Advisory Board
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February 11, 2013

Present: Joe Dean, Ron Mikol, Kevin Welch, Harold Simmons, Dana Metzler, Christine Muir
Meeting opened at 7:00PM

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes of January 7, 2013 and February 4, 2013 were unanimously approved. Joe noted that the minutes from February 4 contain the wrong number for long term debt (excluded); the schedule didn't include the \$50,000 payment for the fire truck. The correct debt number is \$298,796.

Review GDRSD Correspondences

Jim Frey visited the board to discuss some aspects of the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District budget, as the final budget request is not ready for review yet. Jim wanted to clarify the concerns our board voiced last year regarding a stabilization fund for the school district. The fund was originally intended to cover building costs but may also be useful for technology updates.

Technology is a big focus of the School Committee and GDRSD administration for FY14 and the total costs may run upwards of \$750,000. The Advisory Board suggested that debt exclusion or a State House note might be more palatable options.

Overall, the current GDRSD proposed budget contains a \$204,000 increase in Dunstable's assessment (not including the additional technology costs noted above). This number is much higher than the 2.5% increase we are allowed to apply to our budget; we can increase our total budget by about \$160,000, but that has to cover municipal costs as well as schools. Jim explained that the school's budget is only 2.36% higher than last year's budget, but the towns' assessments are higher than that because state aid is flat and transportation reimbursement is down.

Fire Department Budget Review

Chief Brian Rich joined us to discuss his FY14 budget request. Salaries & Wages has increased by \$10,000 in order to increase the pay firefighters receive for each call they answer. We currently have 21 active members who receive \$10/hour; the increase will offer \$15/hour for calls only. Training pay will stay at \$10/hour for FY14. The Chief Training line item is reduced because it only needs to cover the required textbooks; the state pays for the class. Brian justified the increase in his salary based on the number of hours he works each week, which averages about 47. The Selectmen have reviewed and approve the salary increases.

Equipment costs remain the same as last year - \$25,000 - but they've been separated into two line items to distinguish new equipment from replacement equipment.

Brian is looking into moving dispatch from Pepperell to Groton, which will keep costs flat in FY14 and then lower costs by \$2000 the following year. Groton dispatch currently takes our 9-1-1 calls. When they learn that the emergency is fire, they transfer to Pepperell for dispatch, which creates a delay and increases response time.

Firefighting supplies is up \$1800 for FY14 and will increase another \$1000 next year. These supplies include epi-pens, which used to be covered by grant money, and run \$800/year if used; batteries for AEDs; AED pads. Dunstable has 10 AEDs in fire and police vehicles, as well as buildings such as Town Hall.

Parks & Recreation Budget Review

Jim Tully and others stopped in to discuss the Parks & Recreation department budgets. They hadn't received the email from Joe, so we updated our contact information. They will return next week with a request, but they expect the budget to remain the same or close to last year's number.

Old Business

The transfer request from the Board of Health will be held until they present their FY14 budget request to us, either Tuesday, February 19 or Monday, March 4.

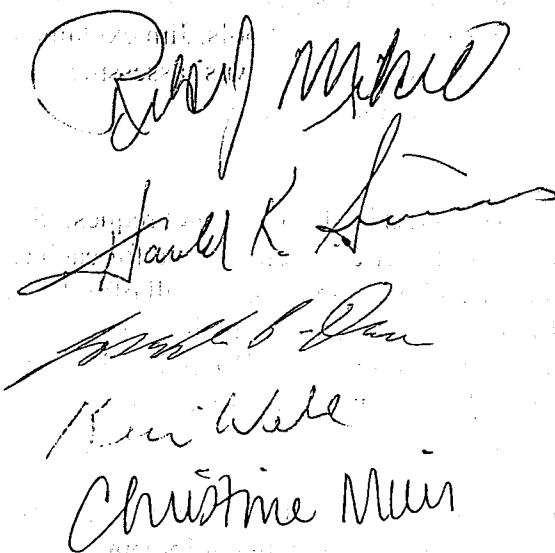
Selectman Ken Leva attended part of our meeting. He said there will be a job description for the Town Manager position next week. It was suggested that the town look into making it a contract position instead of an employee. We are not sure if the state allows that.

The board reminded Mr. Leva that the BoS budget is now past due. The selectman stated that there shouldn't be any big surprises or changes from last year.

New Business

Town Clerk Carol Skerrett requested a transfer of \$3500 to pay for new voting booths. We unanimously voted to approve the transfer from the Reserve account to the Election Supplies account. The Reserve account balance currently sits at approximately \$16,700.

We adjourned at 9:15 p.m.



Paul Myer
Harold K. Lewis
Scott B. Dan
Ken Webb
Christine Miller