



OFFICE OF THE
Advisory Board
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March 3, 2014

Present: Ron Mikol, Kevin Walsh, Harold Simmons, Joe Dean, Dana Metzler, Christine Muir
The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Highway

The Advisory Board approved the authorization for an additional \$25,000 to be paid for snow removal. This increases the account balance to \$36,000 and allows Kim to pay bills as they come in.

The Board of Selectmen approved the funding as well, and initialed the language changes that Ron added in ink. (The original document specified that the amount would be added to next year's operating budget and didn't allow for other funding options, such as a transfer from free cash.)

Town Clerk FY15 Budget

Carol Skerrett sat down to answer any questions about the Town Clerk FY15 budget request. Joe noted that wage increases have not yet been incorporated throughout the spreadsheet. Carol responded that she is content to receive whatever increase other municipal employees receive this year, but she cautioned the Advisory Board that she would look for a salary increase if the current election reform proposals go into effect next year. She posts 20 hours in the office each week, and typically works an additional 100 hours every other year, without compensation; election reforms would require even more time.

The Town Clerk Professional & Technical line item covers the costs of courses Carol takes to keep up with new legislation and regulations. The Communications item covers census, absentee ballots, and voter registrations.

We spent a few minutes discussing the dog licensing program, which operates at lower costs than other towns, and the animal officer, who has submitted expenses once a year but has been asked to do so quarterly from now on.

FY15 Budget Overview

The new property number, \$25,000, is one that Kim got from the Assessor. We are using last year's state aid and local receipts numbers as we do not know how they might change for FY15. Dana suggested that we look at expenses carefully to see what's been driving free cash over the past few years. We may be able to identify an area that's been over-funded and could be reduced to help offset the increased school request.

Selectmen Alterisio and Devlin attended our meeting for several minutes after theirs ended. We discussed the GDRSD budget, and most members of both boards agreed that some additional funding is needed but could not be provided at the expense of the municipal budget.

We adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Christine Muir
Dana Metzler
Harold K. Simmons
Kevin Walsh