



OFFICE OF THE
Advisory Board
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September 15, 2014

Present: Ron Mikol, Harold Simmons, Dana Metzler, Christine Muir, Kevin Welch

Absent: Pam Crocker

Attending: Madonna McKenzie, Interim Town Administrator; Selectmen Walter Alterisio and Danny Devlin

The meeting opened at 7 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes for September 8 were unanimously approved.

New Business

Sue Psaladekis presented a request from the Pathways committee for \$7,600 to pay for the topographical survey and plan, as well as design plans, for a pathway from the center of town to the library, on the north side of Main Street. She thinks that CPA funds cannot be used towards building sidewalks. She did say there is the possibility of finding grant money to contribute to this cost as well as the cost of actually creating the pathway. Dana stated that he thought Chapter 90 money might be available as it can be used for bike paths. Harold asked if funds set aside for CPA administration, with a current balance of about \$9,000, could be used. The Advisory Board did not make a final decision as more information is needed.

Free Cash Certifications

Free Cash was certified at \$466,608.

Special Town Meeting Warrant Review

Article 1 – unpaid bills from previous fiscal year – There is a bill for \$540 to pay for Recreation dept electrical expenses. Everyone is okay with paying this.

Article 2 – authorizing town clerk to fill vacancies at polls – BOS approves.

Article 3 – tuition and transportation costs for Essex Agricultural school – BOS recommends splitting into two articles, one for tuition and one for transportation. The tuition is expected to be \$18,500 and transportation is expected to be \$27,500. We are obligated to pay for this but there was discussion about the need for the town to approve the transportation method.

Article 4 – Salt Shed Construction – there is no firm dollar amount for this project yet, but it is estimated to cost between \$165,000 and \$250,000. The current budget already allocates \$50,000 for a salt shed and some chapter 90 money can be used, too. Kevin and Ron noted that it is important to have ground study done to confirm that building will be supported.

Article 5 – Main Street reconstruction – The highway department has received 22 applications for the project and will interview interested parties on 9/24. The current estimate is about \$100,000 for the engineering. Dana asked if this needs to be done now, with STM vote. Walter answered that the sooner the engineering is completed, the sooner the application for the state reimbursement can be submitted. Kevin would prefer to address this in the spring, as would Danny. The highway department prioritizes the salt shed over this project.

Article 6 – Demolition of building at 160 Pleasant Street, next to post office – Waiting for cost estimate from the Fire Chief. Ron would like to see inspector put in writing, on letterhead, confirmation of no asbestos in building.

Article 7 – police cruisers – Walter wants to check on the maintenance costs and the “burn rate” to see if it is necessary to lease another cruiser now or if it can wait. He would prefer to wait if possible. Ron estimated that the \$1,000 spent on maintenance in July would translate to less than the cost of a new lease over the course of a year, and it covers all vehicles, not just one.

Article 8 – alarm systems for town buildings – Harold asked why the Highway building wasn’t included and everyone agreed that it should be. In general, all are in agreement that this is an important safety project and would support purchasing all the systems at the same time.

Article 9 – CPC transfers – The CPC needs town approval to transfer \$30,000 for a feasibility study on the Best triangle.

Article 10 – Free Cash Transfer – Dana suggested that we consider transferring some free cash to the Stabilization fund.

Article 11 – Zoning By-law Changes – Section 6.2(g)viii needs edits from the affordable housing committee.

Article 12 – Planning Board by-law changes

Madonna noted that there will be another article on the final version of the warrant. This article is related to the stormwater permit that is now required. She anticipates the initial cost to be about \$13,000, which will start the process and hold us over until the annual town meeting.

After reviewing the articles, we discussed the possibility of pushing the date of special town meeting back a week or two. The biggest consideration is that the meeting has to be held in time to set the tax rate.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Ken Welch
Belinda Michel
Dana Smith
Christine Min
Harold R. Quinn