



OFFICE OF THE  
Advisory Board  
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January 5, 2015

Present: Ron Mikol, Kevin Welsh, Harold Simmons and Dana Metzler, Pam Crocker and Christine Muir

Also in attendance: Madonna McKenzie

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

#### Meeting Minutes

There were no meeting minutes to be approved at this time.

#### Transfers

There were no transfers to consider at this time.

#### SubCommittee Reports

Regarding the middle school roof that was replaced last year, we have uncovered records that confirm the Town Clerk received a letter from the schools informing the town of the project but we cannot confirm that the Board of Selectmen (BOS) saw or discussed that letter. (There is no record of discussion in their minutes or ours.) The cost to Dunstable is approximately \$30,000 annually for ten years and requires a Town Meeting vote to be excluded debt.

(The School Committee voted on the roof in November 2012 and sent a letter to Dunstable in December 2012. The Town Clerk's acknowledgement of receipt of that letter is dated February 2013.)

Ron noted that the school district is now publishing a monthly expenditure report, which goes into great detail on their spending. Madonna recommended that the towns continue the joint budget meetings.

Kevin said that negotiations with school union groups are ongoing. Sessions with a mediator are scheduled for two dates in mid- to late January. Harold asked if the mediator's conclusions were binding and Kevin said they are not.

#### GDRSD Capital Project Stabilization Fund

The school district is reviving its request for a stabilization fund that would receive regular deposits through the operating budget and would be used for capital projects throughout the district. Dana will forward messages from School Committee member John Giger with additional information on how the fund will work.

#### New Business

Fire Chief Brian Rich attended our meeting to inform us of a request for a new vehicle. The oil line on the current vehicle disconnected from the motor when the chief was on his way to a call, and required

towing. The chief noted that this is the fifth time it has required towing in 3 years, and that we have spent more than \$10,000 in repairs in less than three years. The cost of a brand-new engine, installed, is roughly \$11,000; additional repairs will also be due shortly. Chief Rich has found a 2015 Ford Explorer, with all the equipment and detailing his job requires, for less than \$38,000. A lease-to-own option is available for a three-year period. While he can manage the first year's payments with funds from the equipment replacement line item in his budget, we all agree that that is not a permanent source of funding and we want to incorporate the lease cost in the FY16 budget while restoring the equipment replacement line.

The Advisory Board unanimously, with one abstention, agreed to support the purchase (by lease) of a new vehicle for the chief. The motion indicated that the board would support funding for the term of the lease without lowering the current equipment budget. The chief will visit the BOS on Wednesday to request their support.

We adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

  
  
  
  
