



OFFICE OF THE
Advisory Board
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May 4, 2015

Present: Harold Simmons, Ron Mikol, Kevin Welch, Dana Metzler, Christine Muir, Pamela Crocker
Also attending: Madonna McKenzie, Walter Alterisio

Meeting Minutes

The board unanimously approved the meeting minutes of April 21 and April 27. Ron arrived late for tonight's meeting so didn't vote on or sign previous minutes.

Water Department

Bryan Conant and Mark Cullen, from the Water Department, visited the Advisory Board to answer questions about the project, specifically regarding the implementation of betterment fees to current users. Madonna noted that betterment fees can only be assessed on the cost of updating the mains, which is about \$1 million of the \$3.5 million total project cost. (With interest paid over the life of the loan, the total cost could amount to \$5.8 million.) Based on a formula given to her by Bonnie Ricardelli, Town Treasurer and Tax Collector, the betterment fees are likely to cost approximately \$300 per household and go down thereafter. (There are 127 parcels that are passed by the water pipes; those 127 households would be charged the betterment fees.) The betterment fees do not have to be listed in the town meeting warrant article or motion, or on the ballot question. They must be determined and in place six months before the project is completed.

Dana asked Walter if the Board of Selectmen (BOS) approves the use of betterment fees, and Walter said yes.

Kevin said that he thinks voters will not support the project unless specific numbers are available. Ron cautioned that we might be held tightly to any numbers that are publicized.

Dana shared a document and bar graph showing the town's municipal debt over the next ten years. When the water infrastructure debt reaches its peak, the town's debt number will only be slightly higher than it was in 2011. Dana's point is that this project isn't any more significant than other debt we've incurred.

New Business

Lorraine sent an email immediately prior to our meeting, notifying us of the application for reimbursement of snow and ice removal costs. We will be about \$55,000 short on that account after we receive the reimbursement. We can spread the payments out over two years, FY16 and FY17, if we decide not to cover it all at once.

We adjourned for the night at 8:10 p.m.

Dana Metzler *Ron Mikol*
Harold K. Simmons
Christine Muir