



OFFICE OF THE
Advisory Board
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October 21, 2015

Attending: Harold Simmons, Dana Metzler, Ron Mikol, Christine Muir, Pam Crocker
Absent: Amie Stevens

Also attending: Accountant Lorraine Leonard, Fire Chief Brian Rich, members of the Highway Road Commissioners

Meeting opened at 7:05 p.m.

Fall Town Meeting Warrant Review

Ron began with a notice that the Board of Selectmen would like the members of the Advisory Board to join their regular meeting next Wednesday, October 28. Christine is not able to do so, but others are available. The purpose is to discuss the special town meeting warrant articles and schedule.

Article 1 – Lorraine clarified the specific bills that are unpaid. They include the Lowell Sun, Millenium Roads (for de-icing liquid) and Wex vehicle fuel purchases. The board questioned the last item because the timing of some purchases seemed unusual (summer months, not winter) and because none of us had come across these bills during our tenure on the board. Road Commissioner Mike Martin confirmed that the purchases had been made by David Tully, who was using the card with more regularity so that it remained open and active. The Advisory Board voted unanimously to support this article, which carries a cost of \$3,977, and pay out of free cash.

Article 2 – The Advisory Board voted unanimously to support this article, which has no cost.

Article 3 – Ron recommended that the board take no action on this article. A welder was able to come in and repair the boiler so that it can be used immediately and so there is no need to replace it. The Advisory Board voted unanimously to take no action on this article.

Article 4 – The Fire Chief explained that this portion of the solution to improving the communications equipment involves putting in a 55-foot telephone pole on High Street, just before Kennedy Farm. The cost of the pole, equipment and installation, as well as prior expenses that the Fire Chief incurred for the current temporary solution, is \$30,000. Three of the five Advisory Board members present voted to support this article, paying the \$30,000 from free cash, while two members abstained from voting.

(Our total supported cost from free cash is now \$33,977.)

Article 5 - The Advisory Board voted unanimously to support this article, which carries a cost of \$4,701.81.

(Our total supported cost from free cash is now \$38,678.81.)

Article 6 – The board voted unanimously to support this article, which has no impact on the municipal budget.

Article 7 – The board voted to defer judgement on this article until we better understand the current funds in the Water Enterprise account. Lorraine confirmed that the certified free cash in the Water Dept. account is \$13,015. There are two Special Project accounts that contain \$23,694 and \$64,457.63, respectively. The Advisory Board wants to understand what these funds are intended for before deciding whether or not to support paying the \$5,518 from the municipal free cash.

Article 8 – For the same reasons as article 7, the board decided to defer judgement on this article.

Article 9 – Ron said he had an update on this article. The actual cost of the design services to modify the library entrances is \$12,000. The library has already engaged a firm to provide these services and plans to pay \$5,000 from a trust account. He noted that it may not be wise to build these costs into the library's operating budget because of the state requirements to increase each year's budget by a certain percentage in order to retain certification. The board voted not to support this cost at this time.

Article 10 – The board voted to defer judgement on this article about the floor in the town hall elevator because we think the cost is high.

Article 11 – The board voted unanimously to support this article, accepting a deed of open space in the Alexander Estates subdivision. This land goes to the Conservation Commission.

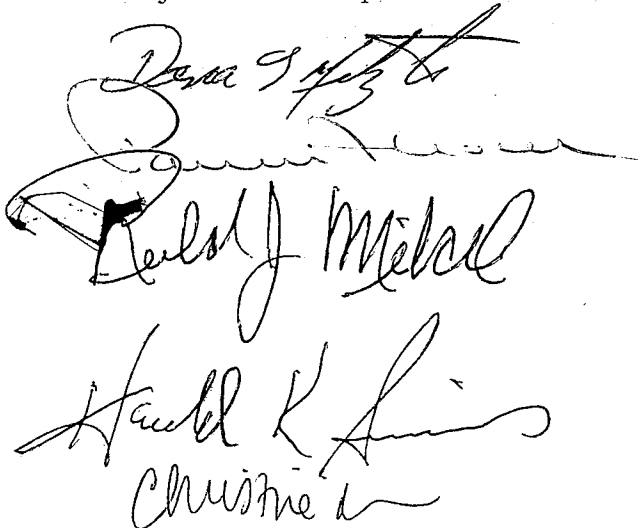
Article 12 – We voted on this article out of order so that the Road Commissioners in attendance didn't have to sit through the discussion on other articles. The board voted unanimously not to support this article, in part because we think there was time for the Highway Department to build this cost into their FY16 operating budget and not have to rely on free cash funds. The actual cost of the plow and blade may be lower than the requested \$27,000 due to trade-in value of the truck being replaced.

At the end of the night, we have approved supporting \$38,678.81 in articles, paid for out of free cash. This amount preserves enough free cash that we may be able to use it to balance the FY17 budget, as we have done with previous budgets for several years in order to offset any increases in the tax rate. However, this amount does not include any funds for the snow and ice deficit, which is \$53,000. The Advisory Board will discuss this payment with the BOS next week.

Minutes

The meeting minutes of October 5 were unanimously approved.

We adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

The block contains several handwritten signatures in black ink. From top to bottom, they appear to be: a signature that looks like 'Dana G. [unclear]', a signature that looks like 'Lorraine [unclear]', a signature that looks like 'Randy J. [unclear]', a signature that looks like 'Haskell K. [unclear]', and a signature that looks like 'Christine [unclear]'. The signatures are written in a cursive style.