



**OFFICE OF THE  
Advisory Board  
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**April 18, 2017**

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

Absent: Amie Stevens, Pam Crocker

Also attending: Town Administrator Tracey Hutton

Meeting opened at 7:20 p.m.

Town Administrator shared a new budget Overview sheet that reflected a reduction of \$3,130 in state aid. She had compensated for this change by increasing the free cash used, but the board requested that she increase the New Growth estimate instead. Tracey said she would check with Town Accountant and Assessor, and if they agreed, she would make that change.

The Chair informed the board that the GDRSD School Committee had formally voted to accept a new, lower budget than was originally certified. The decreased budget was made possible by a savings of approximately \$90,000 in several areas, but did not compromise the SC's educational goals. The newly approved budget is the same as what was used in the April 6 version of the Dunstable line items and overview, so no additional changes are needed on our side.

The fire engine to replace engine 2 will actually cost \$5,000 more than originally anticipated because we cannot pre-purchase the chassis. This makes the total cost \$365,000.

Tracey presented the current version of the slides to be used at the Public Hearing. Any feedback from the board tonight will be incorporated before next Monday's hearing; feedback from that event may cause further changes before Town Meeting. Some of the questions and comments raised tonight include the following:

- Create one slide that includes all articles in which we recommend Take No Action.
- Slide 4 – add the total amount of free cash used, for balancing the budget and for warrant articles.
- Minimize the text on the GDRSD slide; this one serves as an intro to any presentation the SC might wish to offer.
- Christine suggested that perhaps Dana and Leah might like to make statements on behalf of their boards in support of the debt exclusion for Water Dept. Engineering.
- Slide 16 – add bullet about cost of warrant articles
- Slide 18 – add an overview of the four CPC recommendations.
- GDRSD regional agreement – questions were asked about how the proportions fall out for the one person, one vote mandate and how that is worded in the agreement. Christine will review RAAC minutes to offer complete details on the changes to this document.
- The board voted 3-1 to support article 26, combining Parks & Recreation departments and making the board appointed rather than elected.

- Article 28 – Ron raised concerns about the bonding requirement for smaller paving companies, such as may be hired to work on private driveways.

We adjourned at 9 p.m.