

Town of Dunstable
Joint Meeting of the Selectboard & Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2016
Town Hall, Dunstable, MA 01827

Convened: 7:05 pm

Present: Daniel F. Devlin, chair, Walter F. Alterisio, Leah D. Basbanes, member(s); Tracey Hutton, Town Administrator; Christine Muir, chair, Dana Metzler, Harold Simmons, Advisory Board

Final Budget for Special Town Meeting

Ms. Muir started off discussion by explaining the purpose of the meeting, which is to present the final budget to be presented at the Special Town Meeting posted for June 14th, 2016. Due to a lack of quorum the Advisory Board was unable to vote on recommendations for each of the individual articles. The Board, however, determined they could proceed with recommendations for each article. Article 1, the Board determined to recommend vote of the previous town meeting be rescinded and that the salary of the Town Clerk be fixed at \$30,536. A motion to take this position was made by Mr. Devlin and seconded by Ms. Basbanes. The motion passed. Article 2, the Board decided to recommend a transfer of funds to immediately pay the scheduled FY17 and FY18 payments for the amortized FY15 snow and ice deficit. A motion to recommend voting in favor of this article was made by Mr. Devlin and seconded by Ms. Basbanes. The motion passed. Article 4, the Board endorsed the transfer from free cash \$200,000 to offset FY17 appropriations. The motion was made by Mr. Devlin and seconded by Ms. Basbanes. The motion passed.

Article 5 authorizes the Board and other appropriate agencies as required to apply for approval and placement of a Conservation Restriction on various parcels as authorized at prior town meetings and including property owned by the Miller family. A motion to recommend this article to the town meeting was made by Mr. Devlin and seconded by Mr. Alterisio. The motion passed with Ms. Basbanes abstaining as a member of the Conservation Commission. Article 3, Ms. Muir presented the proposed budget by referring to a list that represents what a “no override” would look like as well as what an “override” budget would look like. The no override budget if approved allows the town to continue to operate on July 1st, 2016 should the override ballot question fail at the polls scheduled for June 30th, 2016. The ballot question requires the town to approve \$475,000 in appropriations that exceed the 2.5 percent restriction of Prop 2 ½ over the FY16 appropriations.

There were some subsequent questions regarding some of the cuts including what the approximate net reduction for losing a police officer would be. The sum would be approximately \$40,000. Total budget cuts amount to approximately \$260,000. There was then some discussion regarding the Assessor’s valuation review of properties and how this would be impacted this fiscal year. Questions then arose about the Transfer Station subsidy. The subsidy has been eliminated both in the override and no override budgets. The Board of Health has increased sticker fees to offset the anticipated operating costs which will result. It was noted that anticipated FY16 receipts are running ahead and a modest adjustment has been reflected. From this point discussion revolved around an additional ballot question which will also appear before the electorate. This question will be a request of the town for exemption of the bond payments from the renovation at Greater Lowell Technical High School from Prop 2 ½. The question appeared on the recent the ballot of the Annual Town Election and failed to approve. Since a similar question from the GDRSD was approved it is believed that failure of this question was due in part to public confusion and the question deserves to be reconsidered.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm

Submitted by *Walter Alterisio*, Member

Approved and adopted on 7/13/16