



Finance & Advisory Board Meeting  
Georgetown, MA  
February 4, 2009  
Minutes

The meeting came to order at 7:05 P.M. with the following persons present:

Members: Robin O'Malley – chair, John Bonazoli, Jim Lacey, Jack L'Hommedieu, Tim Ruh, David Surface,

Unable to Attend: Jon Ayres – Vice Chair, Reggie Tardif

Guests: Steve Delaney – Town Manager; Deb Rogers – Board of Health; Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello - Council of Aging; John (Quint) Caldwell –Building Inspector; Steve Przyjemski - Conservation Agent

Minutes taken by John Bonazoli

1. Board of Health: Deb Rogers of the Board of Health described the proposed budget submitted by the Board of Health
  - The budget that was submitted was the same amount as last year.
  - The board of health includes the following functions
    - Restaurant inspections (required 2/year minimum)
    - Housing inspections
    - Septic system inspections
    - Land Cap inspections (this is a large line item in the proposed budget)
    - Public health nurse
    - Animal Inspector
    - Soil evaluator
  - Question: If we had to make cuts, can soil evaluator line item be reduced since building has been reduced?
    - Answer: If needed that is an area that can be reduced
2. Steve Delaney spoke to the board to give an update on town financing
  - Indications show that the town bond will remain as A1
  - Local aid cuts from the state
    - FY 2009
      - ✦ No cuts in Chapter 70 school aid there is no planned cut for the current year
      - ✦ General Aid cut is expected to be \$86,880 (approximately 10%)
    - FY 2010
      - ✦ Chapter 70 school aid level funded
      - ✦ General Aid/Lottery – a cut is expected to be \$250,000 (approximately 29%)
  - Steve advised the Town of Georgetown is in better shape than a lot of towns, but he believes that cuts in town services will be required in the next fiscal year
  - Questions:
    - Q: Was there any feed back on the "wish list" submitted to the Governor's office
    - A: Stay tuned
    - Q: What is the amount (in Dollars) that is transferred from property tax to community preservation act
    - A: \$281,669, with state match = \$268,815

3. Council of Aging:
  - Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello of the Council of Aging presented proposed budget submitted for approval with a copy of "A few Gray Hairs" for reference
  - Points presented
    - Council submitted level funded budget
    - Telephone costs include cell phone for van driver
    - News letter printing is no longer a cost due to advertisement
    - Software maintenance fee is a statistics application used
    - Public Relations = Administrative assistant – This position would be difficult to fill at the present hourly rate.
    - Programs line item was raised \$1,000. The council has expanded some programs.
  - Question from board: If a cut was needed, where would you recommend a cut be made
  - Answer: A program manager is a listed open position for a salary of \$5,000 – this position is no longer needed and should be removed from the list of open positions
  
4. Building Inspector:
  - John (Quint) Caldwell presented a revised budget proposal
  - Points presented
    - Proposed budget is level funded
    - If cuts are needed, continuous education for alternates will be reduced
    - Alternates covering from other towns are not paid salary. They only get paid for the inspections performed. This estimate is included in the Inspection Service Wages line item
    - A new required (by the state) inspectional service is for trench inspections.
    - Salaries are extremely low compared to all surrounding towns and town salaries.
  
  - Question for the board: In break down of salaries there is note to increase admin's hours
  - Answer: This is an old note
  
  - QUESTION FOR THE BOARD: Can we reflect some of the savings of reduced alternative inspections in the salary line?
  - ANSWER: It is very difficult to estimate
  
  - QUESTION FOR THE BOARD: Can you identify town salaries versus alternate inspectors?
  - ANSWER: Yes, John will work with Steve to submit that.
  
  - QUESTION FOR THE BOARD: Are other inspectors (electrical and plumbing) town employees or contractors
  - ANSWER: They are town salaried employees.
  
5. Conservation Commission:
  - Steve Przyjemski (Conservation Agent) presented the proposed budget submitted for approval
  - Points presented:
    - Submitted level funded budget
    - This board has a state account. The state account pays for some of the salaries. This account can only pay for salaries.
  
6. Tim Ruh attended meeting of Town Council and Select board regarding legal fees and open litigation. The list of open litigation has been reduced greatly. A forecast of legal expense will be submitted from Town Council.
  
7. The board discussed how some ideas of how proposed cuts would be looked at if needed. The board would like to receive estimated 2009 spending.
  
8. Next Meeting: Tuesday February 10.
  
9. The meeting scheduled for Wednesday February 18 will be cancelled.

10. A motion was made to accept the meetings from January 21<sup>st</sup> and January 27<sup>th</sup> 2009.  
Jim moved  
David seconded  
Vote 6-0 in favor
11. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06