

# TOWN OF HARVARD

## Tri Board Meeting

### Minutes

**Meeting Date:** February 24, 2010

**Meeting Place:** Town Hall

**Members Present:** Bob Thurston, Marie Fagan, John Sullivan, George McKenna, Heidi Frank, Steve Colwell, Ron Ricci, Peter Warren, Marie Solbavarro, Stu Sklar, Keith Cheveralls, Pat Wenger, Paili De, Virginia Justicz, Debbie Ricci, Tom Jefferson

**Others Present:** Tim Bragan, Town Administrator, Lorraine Leonard, Finance Director

**Meeting Time:** 7:04 pm

**Adjournment Time:** 8:29 pm

### Discussions and Actions

- Bob Thurston opened the meeting at 7:04pm
- Tri Board Meeting
  - Indicated budgets will be slightly down
- Ron Ricci
  - Indicated state and local receipts are down, challenge for all us to do the best job with the resources that we have available to us
  - Have to avoid putting us in worse shape for next year, can't assume things are going to get better
- Keith Cheveralls – Discussion of School budget
  - A very challenging year to pull a budget together. Have been pursuing the budget with zeal. Pushing on all cost center managers.
  - Budget will go to a final vote on 3/15
  - Helping that we are having some Sr. faculty retirements
  - Administrators have agreed to no pay increases despite contracts calling for them
  - Devens contract dollars are being used to fund the schools
  - \$353K from school choice
  - There is no provision for any contract settlement that may come from ongoing negotiations
- Tim Bragan – State of the State
  - Local aid - Governor saying level funding, Sr. Eldridge saying down 10%. We originally budgeted down 15%, have now adjusted down 10%
  - Town did a great job of putting us in a good position for this year
  - State aid will not be increasing anytime soon
  - Finance Committee already looking out at FY12
- Lorraine Leonard – State of the Town
  - Reviewed the current recap – State aid from 15% to 10%
  - Healthcare – instead of 7% going to 10.9%
  - Recap shows a deficit of \$162K
  - No articles from the selectman yet, \$50K set aside.
- Debbie Ricci – Capital Committee
  - Presented a summary of capital requests
  - Reviewed each departments requests
  - Departments should increase their maintenance budgets so there will be fewer capital requests in the future
  - In total \$1,065K in Capital requests for this fiscal year
  - Biggest piece is a new fire truck – We bought it in 1981 – refurbished in 1998 - \$550K

requested

- We only have \$200K in the Capital line item this year.
- Historically we have funded Capital from stabilization fund
- Bob Thurston
  - Described what we asked each dept. to submit – level (includes healthcare increase) and down 5%
  - Most of the budgets are back
  - Praised DPW and its creative thinking around a number of items, called out outsource of street sweeping
  - Some departments will be cut more than others.
  - Indicated that we have the budget deficit under \$100K
  - Budget does not include any pay increases.
  - We need to get to a level funded budget
  - Stabilization fund at 1.6mil. can't really go down or you risk our bond rating
  - Discussion around free cash
  - Need to get to zero deficit by March 30<sup>th</sup>
  - George commented on healthcare costs increase are out of control
  - Tim indicated that we would have budget deficit to \$0.00 in two weeks.
  - Stu Sklar commented that fire truck is needed and that we should plan to ask for override next year.
  - Discussion on fees – and our vote to support school committee on bringing to selectman a request for a warrant to reduce athletic fees.

No liaison reports.

Next Finance Committee meeting Saturday February 27th, 9:00am, Town Hall.

Future meetings will be the first and third Wednesdays every month, 7:00 pm, at Town Hall.

Move to adjourn at 8:29 PM