

**TOWN OF HULL
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

Date of Meeting: 3/26/2007 Meeting Start: 7:32 Meeting Adjourned: 10:13

Attendance:

Member	Present	Absent	Others Attending
Charleen Tyson	X		Dennis Zaia
Joan Senatore	X		Dick Kenney
Charlie Ryder	X		Bob Hollingshead
Jim Tobin	X		Chris McCabe
John Schmid		X (with notice)	Hildred Parent
Joan Cellini	X		Jeanne Paquin
Jim O'Brien	X		Myron Smith
David Clinton	X		Ed Petrilak
Open Seat			John Macleod
			Pat Cannon
			Joseph Divito
			Jim Lampke

Agenda Items:

Charleen distributed copies of the memo from town manger regarding the FY08 Health Insurance rates

Approval of minutes 3/12

Approval of minutes 3/19 as amended

Motion:

Vote:

Member	Made by	Seconded by	In Favor	In Opposition	Abstained
Charleen Tyson			x		
Joan Senatore			x		
Charlie Ryder	x		x		
Jim Tobin			x		
Joan Cellini		x	x		
Jim O'Brien			x		
David Clinton			x		
John Schmid					
Open Seat					

Comments:

Advisory Board changes

Dennis Zaia has resigned his seat in order to run for town moderator. The Chair and Board appreciates his continued involvement in town.

Town Manager updates

We have a greater gap than expected. (approx \$600,000) Chris McCabe, Phil Lemnios, and Charleen Tyson met and agreed to submit the warrant with an unbalanced budget. The Budget will be printed for Town Meeting with a balanced budget.

TM reports we are at 25K for Snow removal this is a 10K deficit.

Only three accounts are short of funds this year.

Charlie asked if there would be any other articles for STM.

Marcia looking for two revolving funds for rabies clinic and a school after-school program.

Charlie noted that we may be able to transfers funds for this instead of using an article.

Jim Tobin asked when we may understand some of the ideas discussed for balancing the budget.

Charleen wanted to wait until Phil was present as he was part of the conversation. Phil is on the job April 9.

One strategy may involve the use of the stabilization fund. The 5 year planning discussions will take on greater importance.

Jim O'Brien notes that our time line has been pushed up because of the larger deficit than expected this year.

We still will see a large hit once we bond the Jacobs School. (1.3 M not in the budget today.)

Charleen thanks Chris for his service and the education you have given us. He is to be commended for his professionalism flexibility with the transition.

Plan board will poll surrounding towns to learn what is being charged for fees.

What does a good full time planner costs??

60-65K/year

Myron states that we have looked at sharing planners with neighboring towns.

Dennis Z asked how many permits are process each year? How do we determine how much is needed to make the position self sustainable.

Transfer of Funds from Reserve Fund to begin Library repairs

Motion:

Vote:

Member	Made by	Seconded by	In Favor	In Opposition	Abstained
Charleen Tyson					
Joan Senatore					
Charlie Ryder					
Jim Tobin					
Joan Cellini					
Jim O'Brien					
David Clinton					
John Schmid					
Open Seat					

Comments:

Budget Presentations

Planning Board

Advertising budget is underfunded listed as "Other Purchases" as an example Myron cited the previous 2 weeks ads at \$1500

With the town planner position vacant, Myron estimates that the board in approx 6 months behind in its work.

Would like to hire a PT person to work through the fiscal year to organize the work and documentation. Person would be basically clerical in nature with planning expertise.

Jim O asks how long a citizen would wait for site plan review. What does a town planner earn?

Myron states \$22,000 PT

Myron spoke of the past planners position that also wrote grants as Community Development director. This tended to work well together with both positions.

Dennis Z asked about fee structure and how it is regulated.

Myron States x dollars/1000 for site plan review with a cap. ANR is 25 dollars flat fee.

If no regulations can we not raise the fees? Fees are established by the BOS.

Jim O asks if the board is taking a proactive stand to raise the fees.

Warrant

Charleen asks when AB will get the Planning Board's recommendations. There may be as many as 8 planning board articles.

Much discussion was held as to the process for closing the warrant and the tight deadlines that ensue.

Sewer

Ed Petrilak

Jim O wanted to know about the agree with Cohasset/Hingham and what capacity we have.

Agreements are similar other than flow rates. Originally the agreements were to be stand alone. Later a third agreement was formed that changed the cost sharing and build only one delivery system. Unclear as to what capacity is used by each. So we only determine flows by water meeting readings which is not accurate.

Combined flow does not exceed the agreement. Flows are running 65-70 % capacity 145,000 gallons /day.

Hull is 1.8 millions gallons/day pant can handle 3.07 millions gallons/day.

Are we able to place a premium on surrounding towns sewage?

Of we were to renegotiate we would look to maximize the towns benefit. Original agreements were 30 years Signed in late 90s.

Dave C asked whether the Sewer Department negotiates with private developers.

Ed states that we do although we prefer to negotiate with the municipalities involved as a matter of practice.

Dave C cautioned about going into agreement with unscrupulous developers.

Charleen asked about if we were able to find ways to increase revenues, is it required to spend the revenue only on Sewer Department needs vehicles, rate, infrastructure.

We signed an operations contract with A division of Aquarion owned by an English company. This company was sold except the operation division. There is still negotiations as to who ultimately ends up with them.

Light Plant

John MacLeod and Pat Cannon presented the HMLP budget.

HMLP are in the midst of the 06 audit. So the numbers presented are unaudited.

Allow to make up to 8% profit. Although they try not to make that. They wish to make enough to pay In lieu of taxes payment plus improvements.

HMLP has not had a rate increase since 1996. They adjust the bills for purchase power costs every six months. Turbines have stabilized the rates. Would like to see a decrease as costs for power decrease.

Jim O asked about using the housing space to sell ad space? This has not been contemplated as yet. If they did, money could be use to reduce rates or possibly increase in lieu of taxes payments.

We see a increase of 40,000 from HMLP to pay part of Town Manager's salary.

HMLP does aid the town as well in Borrowing for cash flow purposes.

HMLP also funds Special event slighting. Tree trimming, Nets, Ball field lighting, etc.

HMLP would like to discuss how the TM salary is funded. HMLP reports that they would like to be consulted as to how that figure was created. Charleen suggests speaking with the BOS.

Charlie asked about the stabilization fund that was substantial. This was used to purchase HWII. The money saved by HWII far out weighed the Interest income from the reserve account. Today the amount of fund = \$500,000. Board feel comfortable with that number.

Charleen asked if Debt issued was raised at same rates as the town. The answer was yes.

Discussion on how rates are charged. John explained in good detail. Some is set by HMLP, some by other entities.

Warrant article discussion

An article proposed to eliminate stipends to elected or appointed town officials.

Currently elected officials with salary qualify for health and life insurance because there is no minimum hours for town officials. If you are a paid employee you may apply for membership in the town's retirement system.

We look to change the process by eliminating the eligibility. This does surface in most communities every few years.

Most communities look to grandfather existing participants in some manner.

100 % payment plus admin fees. e.g COBRA

There are a few mechanisms to make this happen.

Discussion made as to previous pension limits passed in 2005 but did not get through the state legislature.

Jim O states the real issue is a fairness issue with other board without stipends.

Charlie has stated he favors the idea of allowing the participants to stay on if they pay 100% of the costs.

Dennis asks if there is anyway to achieve our goals without going to state legislature.

To add an article to limit elected officials participation for health, life insurance and Pension.
Using the Richmond article as a guide.

Motion:Adjourn

Vote:

Member	Made by	Seconded by	In Favor	In Opposition	Abstained
Charleen Tyson			X		
Joan Senatore			X		
Charlie Ryder			X		
Jim Tobin		X	X		
Joan Cellini					
Jim O'Brien	X		X		
David Clinton			X		
John Schmid					
Open Seat					

Comments:

Respectfully submitted;
David Clinton
Acting Secretary/Clerk