

TOWN OF HULL
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Date of Meeting: 4/9/2007 Meeting Start: 7:32 Meeting Adjourned: 10:42

Attendance:

Member	Present	Absent	Others Attending
Charleen Tyson	X		Jim Quatromoni
Joan Senatore	X		Gary Twombly
Charlie Ryder	X		Mike O'Donnell
Jim Tobin	X		Joseph Menice
John Schmid	X		Walter Walper
Joan Cellini	X		Marcia Bohinc
Jim O'Brien	X		Robert Hollingshead
David Clinton	X		Patrick Finn
Open Seat			John Donahue
			Steve Williamson
			Joan Meschino
			Phil Lemnios
			Jay Polito
			Marc Fournier
			Jim Lampke

Agenda Items:

Approval of minutes 3/26

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	x		
Joan Cellini			x		
Jim O'Brien			x		
David Clinton			x		
John Schmid					
Open Seat					

Comments:

Meeting posted for Wednesday April 11 and April 14 8:00 am

We will need those posted meetings.

Town Manager Welcome

Town Manager updates

Budget was reviewed with Charleen Marcia and Charlie two weeks ago to start planning based on updated state numbers (State Aid)

Net state aid after assessments has decreased much since 2003.

Phil is not anticipating any relief from the House or Senate versions of the Budget.

Phil described a recap sheet he distributed to explain how he would deal with the current shortfall.

REVENUE SIDE

170,000 found from overlay surplus revisit.

200,000 from Stabilization Fund

EXPENDITURE

150,000 from budgetary 2% decreased

289,800 Insurance increase.

Phil states that he would like to see a multi year approach to budgetary planning going forward.

350,000 in previous year's overlay was located.

Leaves 170,000 for use this year.

Phil is comfortable that this figure.

1% - 3 % should be set aside annually. But we only put into reserve what the assessors feel may be claimed.

Jim T asked about the stabilization fund and how often we can dip into this bucket, other than Memorial School Bond obligations.

We are in a precarious situation and we need to solve this through a long term plan.

There is approx \$2.5 million in Stabilization Fund today.

Joan asked about Union renegotiation. This is being held as a question until later in the meeting.

Budget Presentation – Park & Rec

Chair recognized the board and thanked them for coming. They presented to the board information about fees AB recommended 250 per child and 450 per family. The board is of the opinion that raising fees will cause families to pull their kid out of the program. Gary Twombly gave an overview of the program.

Approx 260 kids 80 % low income 20% hardship cases.

Joe Menice spoke in behalf of the Park&Rec decision to not raise fees. Cited instructors are H.S. Seniors or graduates that may be looking into teaching.

Jim T asked about differences between the summer and winter programs.

July is an 8 week program

Winter Program is generally on Saturdays and Some evening for “Night Gym”

Who sets the rates? Park& Rec commission.

Steve Williamson mentioned grant that may be out there.

School Dept may help

Wellspring

Other groups that have grant writing expertise.

Warrant Article Discussions

Sex Offender restrictions - Article 16

Jim Canavan to speak on Sex Offender Article in Town Meeting (Article 16)

This article would restrict where they reside in town and be present (loitering).

We are trying to mirror what other communities have done. We are looking to restricting from 1000' of a playground, school, library, park, athletic fields etc. Distance is from boundary of location. This would carry a civil penalty (fines)

1st offense \$150 or quit residence within 30 days.

2nd offense \$300 or quit residence within X days.

Study group will be discussing Wednesday night to finalize by law language.

Jim Clarified the fines:

Fines are recoverable at district court.

Tickets may also be issued.

Clarification may need to be created around special issues such as a sex offender that has a child in the schools.

Jim believes the article will be sustained by any challenge.

The boundary may be lessened based on the study committee's recommendation.

Motion will need only a simple majority vote.

Jim O asked who had to be disclosed

Only Level 3 offenders must. Level 2 and Level 1 do not.

Jay Polito asked what constituted a Day Care Facility?

Jim C states that he really meant Preschools and that they would look at defining day care to see if home day care should qualify for this article.

Integrated Preschool revolving Account - Article 38

Marcia believes this is a self-supporting program, but Jim C believes this is not the case. And that it is funded through the Special Ed budget.

Marcia reports this is currently a revolving fund with no statute behind it.

Marc Fournier

Civil Service removal Article 6

Phil tells us that removal of C.S. From DPW employees will benefit the town by allowing the DPW to be more flexible in job structuring, remediation, etc.

New employees would not be part of C.S. And existing Employees may be grandfathered. The article implies grandfathering.

Employees already have union Protection (AFSCME) American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees)

Landfill Article 7

Marc spoke on merits of Landfill Closure and post closure use. Plan includes Transfer Station and enhanced Recycling Center

Chris McCabe \$1,037,000 through 2011 when we would borrow the balance.

Phil Stated that we may need to look at how this fits in to other capital projects. We may be premature in carrying this article with out a clear picture of the funding source.

What will the state require us once the landfill is closed.

There are options ranging from capping and trucking out waste to full on transfer station with composting facility. This adds other questions.

Jim O points that we are very close to TM with a new Town Manager. Might it be a good idea to table now and hold a Special TM 6 months from now. Marc and Phil will meet to discuss this proposal tomorrow and decide when we move forward on this project.

Chair asked to return on 4/14 SAT SESSION.

Budget Discussions

Phil talked about the Overlay Surplus item confirmation of numbers.

Revolving Accounts Discussions

Charleen asks “Are they a good idea or not?” in terms of creating new ones.

Charlie asked about the Building Dept Rev account and why we hold a 115,000 balance. Can we use this if offset the budget for the building department. Our hands may be tied by not having the money go to the general fund.

If we have a identified cost center, revolving accts allow us to track the costs of the depart. Allows for transparency in the accounting.

Dave C asked whether our new accounting system would allow for the same level of transparency and also the flexibility for future budgets by TM.

Jim O asked whether we should list the fees that fund these accounts for Town Meeting so the public understands the process more fully.

Pat Finn Zoning Article 27

Pat spoke to the merits of his article and the changes he made from last year's article that was defeated. The change for section 49-3 was one highlighted change. This change states the if the applicant could not meet conditions as a matter of right, they may seek Zoning relief and that relief MAY be conditioned upon Local Initiative Program Criteria.

Planning Board voted 4-0 unfavorable action.

Further discussion centered around what the impact would be to New Growth.

Jim O asked why Planning voted unfavorable.

Similar article as last year defeated article.
And against any form of increased density.

Warrant Article Votes

Motion: Adjournment

Vote:

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

Comments:

Respectfully submitted;
David Clinton
Acting Secretary/Clerk