

**TOWN OF HULL  
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

Date of Meeting: 1/24/2008 Meeting Start: 7:32 pm Meeting Adjourned: 8:45 pm

Attendance:

Member	Present	Absent	Others Attending
Charleen Tyson		X with notice	Philip Lemnios
Joan Senatore	X		Dr. John Silva
Charlie Ryder	X		Dr. Chris Olivieri
Jim Tobin		X with notice	Ron Davy (absent)
John Schmid	X		Joan Meschino
Dick Kenney		X with notice	John Reilly
Jim O'Brien		X with notice	Kenin Breen
David Clinton	X		Marianne Harte
Dennis Zaia	X		Dave Twombly
Jay Polito	X		Maria Hortaridis
Harry Hibbard	X		Marcia Bohinc
			Dennis Blackhall
			Gary Twombly
			Marc Fournier
			Catherine Bowes
			Chief Robert Hollingshead
			Rhoda Kanet

Both Meetings were called to order at 7:32 pm

**Budget Presentation by Town Manager**

Members of both the Advisory Board and the Board of Selectmen received copies of the Annual Budget for FY2009. This is the annual presentation of the preliminary budget and is subject to revision.

Highlights

Town Manager discussed the Budget narrative enclosed in the Presentation of the Proposed Budget.

- The recent history since 2004 state aid has been much less than previously. This has hurt all cities and towns.
- Revenue sources are constrained by a formula, State Sources at the whim of the State gov't, rest of source are based on local receipts.
- The stabilization fund is proposed to be used at \$234,874.
- Overlay Surplus funds are being used to \$225,000. This is a \$50,000 decrease from last year.
- Total revenue increases by 1.1 % of total budget, not the operating budget.
- Operating budgets on the General Gov't and School Dept. will be decreased by 2.6%.
- Employee Health Insurance increases by 15%. This is consistent with previous years.
- The Expenditure side of the budget increases by 1.1% of total budget.

Chairs opened for questions. Board members wished to go through the proposed budget first before asking. Dennis Z. took the opportunity to thank Phil for a well detailed narrative.

Dennis Blackhall asked about any risks not identified, e.g. reduction in property values.

(Town Manager)TM: This only impacts the rates and not the 2.5% increase allowed by law.

Risk categories show risk with State Aid, Health Insurance may offset risk as we project 15% and this may drop? BC/BS is feeling competitive stress. BOS just voted to join the Plymouth County Health Trust Fund committee. In the past only the county commissioners sat on this committee. This may be an entry to join the GIC.

John Reilly asked about our Bond Ratings.

TM: currently we enjoy an A+ rating. FY10 will begin the permanent bond for the Jacobs School Project.

How much will we be issuing for?

TM: Approx \$14Million (this may be a bit high)

Dennis Zaia asked about any litigation that may be looming to cause risk.

TM: We don't see any thing catastrophic at this time.

Marc Fournier warned about the Landfill Closure and Capping project that is coming in a few years.

Chairman Silva mentioned that we may need to begin thinking outside of the box for savings such as consolidation of maintenance services.

Chairman Ryder suggested looking at a potential debt exclusion for School Projects Dept.

Joan Meschino wanted to remind that the school Dept is not the sole culprit to the budget issue we are seeing. We would still be in the same boat without the school debt.

Dennis Zaia reminds that we need to start thinking differently to how we exist as a community. He asked the BOS how they can sheppard this new "Thought". He asked how the community can involve themselves in this thinking outside of the box.

Dennis Blackhall asked what the schools would do if they can not meet the TM proposed budget.

TM: Town meeting has the ultimately say in what the budget will ultimately be.

John Reilly discussed the BOS discussion of the Vision statement form 95-96. The Gov't Study may be an effective tool for the townspeople to voice their concerns and ideas. How can we maximize services while cutting costs may be answered. Saturday workshops for New Vision statement to be formalized.

Joan Meschino spoke of the Goals by the BOS that were set and that Economic Development has been the top goal listed.

Rhoda Kanet spoke of needed to start today in forming community meeting to find answers to our budget issues.

Chairman Silva stated that this activity has begun and will continue.

Dennis Z brought up a new topic in that the AB has been attempting to help the TM and BOS to make the process more transparent to the community. He asked Phil to explain how the HMLP fits into this. This tends to be a place where townspeople ask to raid the coffers.

TM: Gave an explanation to the meeting.

Payment in Lie of taxes was approx \$115,000 last year.

Robert Hollingshead opened invitation to AB and BOS to come and visit see the facilities and ask questions.

Dennis B. thanks Phil for all his hard work in putting the presentation together and to recognize the AB for their Volunteer efforts.

Motion: Adjourn

Vote:

Member	Made by	Seconded by	In Favor	In Opposition	Abstained
Charleen Tyson					
Joan Senatore			X		
Charlie Ryder			X		
Jim Tobin					
Dick Kenney					
Jim O'Brien					
David Clinton			X		
John Schmid			X		
Dennis Zaia	X		X		
Jay Polito		X	X		
Harry Hibbard			X		

Comments:

Respectfully submitted;  
David Clinton  
Secretary/Clerk