

**TOWN OF HULL
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

Date of Meeting: 2/11/2008 Meeting Start: 7:30 pm Meeting Adjourned: 10:10 pm

Attendance:

Member	Present	Absent	Others Attending
Charleen Tyson		X with notice	Philip Lemnios
Joan Senatore	X		Janet Bennett
Charlie Ryder		X with notice	Dennis Blackhall
Jim Tobin	X		Marcia Bohinc
John Schmid	X		David Beck
Dick Kenney		X with notice	Anne Herbst
Jim O'Brien	X		Peter Lombardo
David Clinton	X		
Dennis Zaia	X		
Jay Polito	X		
Harry Hibbard	X		

Vice-Chair asked to look at the upcoming agendas to see how we can update. There are many departments that may not need to come before the AB.

Budget Presentations

Janet Bennett

Elections

level funded from 2008

Selectmen

Decrease from 2008 of \$1568.00

Town Clerk

Small increase from 2008 of \$445

Board of Registrars

Level funded from 2008

Town Reports

Level funded from 2008

Dave C asked how we have been able manage these costs since other towns have had issue.

Town Clerk – Answered that we manage cost based on how we print; using soft cover, less printed, etc.

Town Mgr. also mentioned that the legislature could offer relief if they allowed the website to become the legal relief.

Accountant

Increase in \$4245

Marcia Bohinc discussed the departments budget

Dennis Zaia asked Town Accountant to discuss the successes and challenges for the new accounting system. A single reporting system now is in place for town and school. Marcia can now reconcile accounts with ease. Town Manager talked about making efficiencies by have one finance department. We could see not only cost savings but that of time and accuracy.

Jim O'brien hopes that this new system will allow for better management for general town accounts as well as the school department.

Dennis Blackhall asked if the chart of accounts was restructured. Town Account responded that the chart of accounts has been fully restructured for all accounts including the schools.

DB has also asked if we have restated any numbers from previous years.

Town Account stated that the some, but schools was not restated.

Jim O'Brien asked who at the school department was involved in the implementation.

It was answered that a variety of folks were involved.

Assessors

Increase of \$440

David Beck, Asst. Assessor came in to discuss the Assessors budget.

Building Commissioner

Decrease of \$23,165 from 2008

Dennis Zaia asked who set the fees.

The building commissioner does that with input of Town Manager

Jim O'Brien mentioned that the budget has been taking a hit for the past few years.

Asked about fees and why one fee was good for each inspections.

Jim asked why the department is not set up as an enterprise account.

Answered that it could not sustain itself in all years.

Conservation Commission

Anne Herbst, Conservation Agent, came in to discuss the budget request.

Decrease from 2008 of \$3,620.

Anne was instrumental in securing a reduction in flood insurance through a federal program.

Law Department

Increase of \$2,933 from 2008

Jim Lampke, Town Counsel, came in to discuss his budget request.

John Schmid reminded the board that his reputation exceeds the boundaries of Hull. He is well respected throughout the commonwealth.

Town Manager

Increase of \$4,648

Town Wide Accounts

Decrease of \$13,752 from 2008

Town Meeting will have a report on the feasibility for Hull Wind III.

Basically and update to where we are in the study process and costs.

Dennis Blackall asked if we use our auditors for anything other than the town books.

Town Manager said that we have not as many items like town assets may not be feasible. i.e. sewer pipes.

Boards & Commissioners

Decrease of \$4,450 from 2008

Vice- Chair asks that each member formulate questions ahead of time and give for Phil to disseminate.

A discussion was held as to the charge of the Advisory Board in relation to the budget process based on Chapter 20 and Chapter 8.

Jim O'Brien asked how the AB can have a role, legally, in the long term financial planning of the town. Town Manager explained that this could be done in participatory manner such as the Financial committee presently meeting and subsequent meetings. We, as a town, will need to get as many people in town as possible to fully understand the situation we are and will be in regarding our budget issue in the next few years.

Dennis Blackhall spoke of his frustration with the school department's lack of transparency in their budget process. This was echoed by many members present.

Questions came up as to why we don't understand the actual monies spent from the School Budget.

Motion: Adjourn

Vote:

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

Comments:

Respectfully submitted;
David Clinton
Secretary/Clerk