

TOWN OF HULL
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Date of Meeting 3-9-15

Meeting Start: 7:05 pm

Adjourn: 9:25 pm

Town of Hull Advisory Board Meeting

Attendance:

Member	Present	Absent	Other
	X		Phil Lemnios
	X		Joe Stigliani
	X		Jim Dow
	X		Carol O'Donnelly
Dick Kenney	X		
David Clinton	X		
Jay Polito	X		
Peter Larsen	X		
Jill Dennard	X		
Bob Carney		X	w/notice
John Tiani	X		
Christine Carr	X		
George Boylen		X	w/notice

Town Manager Update

State Aid Summary:

- Governor's submission has been made, budget goes to House and Senate, gets negotiated, then decided. Anticipated late June.
- Do we participate in School Choice? Pose question to school. Pose question to Superintendent.
- As enrollment continues to drop, Chapter 70 numbers will not be going up.

Salary Explanation:

Town Manager produced an Assessor Salary History to answer questions that Dan Sullivan raised.

In short, Town Manager produced an overview of comparative salaries from other towns. In the cases of the BOH Director and Harbormaster, Hull's employees are making less than all of their peers. BOH Director Joyce Sullivan makes \$78,719 and the Harbormaster makes \$44,858.

Hull Times covered that meeting and discussion, then wrote an article about it. A consequence of that article was an implication that the AB was making a judgment about whether these individuals deserve to be paid that much.

AB members assured Town Manager that the question around salaries was not a commentary on the performance of the people who occupy those positions. It was an analysis and based on empirical data.

Discussion commenced – Town Manager said that morale now a problem as a result of this (the meeting and subsequent Hull Times article).

Fire:

Represented by Acting Chief Chris Rousseau

- 32 members, 3 stations
- There is always a Chief Officer in town.
- 1000 transports – hospital
- Reviewed budget going back to 2006. And essentially found that they are 1% over the budget since that time.

Q: Can you describe the current conditions:

A: Station itself is in the best condition it's going to be in considering it's 100 years old. They have a new engine, a new command vehicle, but overall the state of the equipment is pretty good. Looking at bidding out the repair of the hydrants, which will allow hydrants to get updated more quickly. Also implementing a flushing program and a lot of that infrastructure will be replaced over time. We may be able to repair as many as 15 this year. Aquarion has already done 6 at no charge.

Q/Comment: Impressed with the overall condition of the vehicles and equipment and wanted to know why costs went down.

A: There is now a Captain overseeing the maintenance, so it's running better.

Working on securing \$700k from a grant program that allows the department to add more staffing for staff needed in Summer. Huge savings realized from this program. Pays salaries and benefits.

DPW:

Represented by Joe Stigliani, Jim Dow, Carol O' Donnelly

- Landfill - \$2m project estimated – It is estimated we will need to do this in 4 years. \$2m capital event. There's a cost to cap it.
- Sanders - Hull has 4 sanders – comment was made that it seems like the roads get sanded/cleaned very well at the beginning of the season. By the end, not so much. In short, equipment breaks down, and not enough people to remove it.
- It has been an expensive Winter because of the several severe storms. Equipment has broken down. However, the DPW did not get or have a couple of pieces of equipment that they hoped to have. We also have to plan for the damage the storm caused to signs, etc. Mr. Stigliani noted that we have produced an estimate for this damage.
- When property owners experience damage from plowing and snow removal, they submit claims to the town.
- The FEMA snow removal submission was \$544k.

Sewer report:

- We are at the 2nd anniversary of the failure of the plant. Inside the plant, everything is running at 100%.
- There was a \$2.6m bond authorized by the State during the failure. And a second one after that. It will probably be several years before it's settled.
- The new step screen has been ordered at a cost of \$600k and due to be installed by June 2015.
- The Town Manager recommendation will be consistent with the request.

Short discussion about where pumping stations are located and who is responsible for what.

Annual Report – review and make comments for next meeting.

Motion to Adjourn: Jay Polito, and 2nd by Dick Kenney.

Motion: Vote to adjourn

Member	Motion	Second	For	Against
Dan Sullivan			X	
John Schmid			X	
Dick Kenney		X		
David Clinton			X	

Jay Polito	X			
Peter Larsen			X	
Jill Dennard			X	
Bob Carney			absent	
John Tiani			X	
Christine Carr			X	
George Boylen			absent	

Comments: Motion carried

Meeting adjourned.