

**ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING**

12-12-05 (approved 1-23-06)

Present: Doug Boyd, Carol Fitzgerald, Timm Marini, Kathy Pessolano

Absent: Michael Crowley

Also in Attendance: John D Flynn, Mr. Collins

Reviewed minutes of November 28, 2005. Carol motioned to accept minutes, Timm seconded, all in favor. The revised minutes of November 14, 2005 were not voted on in order to give everyone a chance to review them. They will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Kathy said she had given Ann, the Advisory clerk, a memo to send to all departments regarding the budget requests. We are still missing some budget requests from several departments and have asked them to have those requests in by December 16, 2005. Also Kathy had given Ann a copy of the budgets already received and a copy of the Green Book with the requested figures inputted and Ann will have them inputted onto an excel form for the FY 07 budget. We will also start meeting with the departments to discuss their budget requests starting on January 9, 2006. We are going to have approximately 4 meetings, one being tentative, January 9, 23, February 6 and possibly February 13. So hopefully by February 27 at our regular meeting we would have all of the recommendations in order to submit to the selectmen's office so that Pam can include it in the town report.

Doug asked Kathy if the budget requests were level service requests. Kathy said that the Selectmen had asked each department to submit 3 different types of budgets, one being level service, one being restored services (for those departments that were closed), and one being, prior to the override failure of last year, a budget to reflect restoration to what departments feel they need to adequately service the town. In the budgets that Kathy has looked thru, there have only been 2 budgets submitted by the departments. So what Kathy has put on the FY 07 requested has been the restored budgets, not the bare bones budget. It will then be our job to look at what their bare bones budgets are and their requested budgets are and reach some sort of happy medium in presenting something to the town for the annual town meeting.

Kathy told the board that since they last met, she had been asked to attend a meeting by the board of Selectmen to discuss the proposed funding of Minnechaug Regional High School Building project.

There is a lot of uncertainties, not so much with the project, but with respect to the state, which is proposing new regulations that would be in effect as soon as next year, that may effect how the two towns proceed with the building project, if in fact the school committee decides to go forward with it. The Selectmen asked me to attend because they had changed their minds based on the department head meeting that was held on November 18, 2005. Kathy was not aware of a situation until she was sitting at this meeting, which disturbed her a bit but, apparently the school committee had let the two towns know that they were thinking about bonding for the architectural fees. Doug Boyd said that the Selectmen from each town acknowledging the school committees intention to vote to bond, the school committee then has under the statues a certain number of days, it's either 5 or 7 days, to notify each Board of Selectmen that they voted to incur this debt

and the towns is under this particular provision, this is a capital provision in the regional school district, and they have 60 days to call a town meeting, and failure to call a town meeting is tantamount to accepting the bonding. Kathy said that what apparently happened was, based on the department head meeting that she had attended on November 18, 2005 the Selectmen had a change of heart and decided to bring it to the voters rather than just going ahead and letting them bond, which Kathy felt was a good thing to do, because the voters should be able to have some input on this issue. There is a lot of legality that goes along with this. So we will be following this situation. Also discussed at this meeting was the school departments budget. The Selectmen gave them possible guidelines as to how much they would want to see the budget increase.

Kathy said that there is a lot going on and that we are hoping to have a working budget with all the requests by next week and that we will begin meeting with the different departments in January.

We don't know how much money we have to work with yet, we haven't gotten any updated figures from Cliff. In Cliff's defense, I don't think he knows because we usually don't hear anything from Boston until January or February.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2006 at 6:30pm in the Melville Room

Timm Marini motioned to adjourn the meeting, Doug Boyd seconded, all in favor.

Meeting ended at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Murphy