

MEETING

ADVISORY BOARD

FEBRUARY 6, 2006

Approved 3-6-06

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

Absent: Michael Crowley

Also Attending: John D Flynn, Stanley Witkop, Tracy Sicbaldi, Jeff Farnsworth, Scott Trombley, Kathy Zanetti, Cliff Bombard, Bill Olmstead

The Board met with Stanley Witkop, a member of the board of assessors, to discuss the issue of cyclical inspections and how that should be funded. Stanley said that it makes sense to build the cost into the structure every year because to do a complete list and measure every year is a farce. It doesn't work out good and it's hard for a company to get enough labor to do the inspections and the last time it was done it was a mess. We feel that it's better for everyone to spread it out over several years. Kathy wanted to let him know that at the last meeting the figure for these inspections cannot be included in the budget, that they have to be put on a separate warrant. Stanley said that they did submit it on a warrant as well in case the item didn't get approved on the budget, but they still felt it should be included on the budget. Kathy also asked if the assessors had any news on overlay. Stanley said that there isn't that much in overlay and that there is still a pending ATB case before the state regarding the Telephone and Telegraph companies that is going to affect us. Also the amount of abatements applications this year has tripled to what we normally have. Also the assessors would like to have the clerical hours increased from 20 to 26 with a step increase. Kathy asked that the assessors submit a revised budget by next week.

The board met with Tracy Sicbaldi, the Town Treasurer, to discuss her budget requests. Tracy said that due to the fact that she changed Payroll services she dropped her 16.8 line item to \$5,000.00. She also said that the software company that her and Cliff currently use, B&H, is no longer going to be available after June 30, 2006. She found a new company, Sumaria, and the start up fee is \$8,900.00, which would be split between her and Cliff, and is \$1400.00 a year for maintenance, which would also be split between her and Cliff. Doug Boyd asked how much tax title activity there is. Tracy said that there are 2 properties that she is still pursuing and will be the towns soon and also that she got a payment of \$45,000.00 from one resident who hadn't paid his taxes since 1996.

Cliff Bombard arrived and he said that the current software fee of \$900.00 is currently paid out of the selectmens budget under 29.2 maintenance. All of the departments pay their own fees, except for Treasurer and Accountant. Cliff also said he wants to see how Sumaria works, and he is going to a demonstration on Sumaria on the 24th of February.

Kathy said that she just realized that they cannot put the one time cost of the start up fee of \$8900.00 on the budget, that it has to be a warrant article. Tracy will submit a warrant article to the selectmen and will get a revised budget to the advisory board. Cliff said if we don't do it this year we will have to do it next year; B&H will service it until next year.

The board met with the Police Chief, Jeff Farnsworth, and Officer Scott Trombley, and Kathy Zanetti to discuss the police budget. Kathy said that during the transition between Scott and Jeff, two budgets were submitted. Advisory asked them to do another budget including adding 1 full time officer (currently they are down a total of 3 officers and 1 dispatcher). Jeff said he has done a budget to include 2 positions, both being officers, because he feels we need more consistent coverage on the road, we need to fill the gaps in the shifts because at times there is only one officer on duty. He is doing well with part time dispatchers as opposed to reserve officers; it only takes about a month to get a part time dispatcher up and going as opposed to 3 to 4 months to have a reserve officer trained. Regarding police cars, a new concept would be to lease 2 cars; by current standards we really need 3 cars. The industry recommends 85,000 as the replacement mark. We only have 1 car that is still under warranty. Line 57.5 is \$28,567.17 that is what 2 new cruisers would cost to lease. Line 57.6 \$27,000 would reflect training for new officers and for reserve officers because we are relying on them more and more. Also we do not have a firearms instructor anymore, we need to have an officer trained for rape cases and accident investigation and all of that is included in the training figure. In General expenses, we increased that because right now we allow the reserve officers \$25.00 a year for uniform cost and they have to purchase their own firearm. The increase allows for \$100 a year for uniforms. Also included in this figure are batteries for the defibrillators, portable radio batteries and medical supplies. Kathy thanked the police department for doing this extra budget for the advisory board.

Kathy said that we are just waiting on numbers from the state to be able to start finalizing the budget.

Signed payroll voucher.

Postponed approving minutes until next meeting.

Carol Fitzgerald motioned to end meeting, Kathy Pessolano seconded.

Meeting ended at 7:05pm

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Murphy