

## MEETING

### ADVISORY BOARD

**MARCH 28, 2006 (continuation of March 27, 2006)**

**Approved May 22, 2006**

Attending: Doug Boyd, Michael Crowley, Carol Fitzgerald, Timm Marini, Kathy Pessolano

Also Attending: John D Flynn, Cliff Bombard, Duane Mosier, Bill Olmstead, and several residents.

Kathy addressed the board regarding the Snow and Ice account. She said it is overdrawn \$52,000. We projected \$85,000 for this account. The average snowstorm costs \$3,000. She feels we can reduce this figure to \$60,000 and safely take \$25,000 off of the charge against revenue on the revenue sheets and add it to our bottom line.

Kathy said that she wanted to remind the board that they have the option of making the recommendations on the warrant articles from the floor of public town meeting. Ordinarily we have voted the warrant articles, so that when the green sheets come out there is the advisory's recommendation on whether we would support favorable action or negative action. So until we get firmer numbers we can certainly hold off on how we would recommend spending any excess money that we come up with, if we cannot come to an agreement tonight. She would like to at least like to vote the budget tonight so that the budget can be submitted to the printer so that the residents will have this information for town meeting. The warrant article will be printed in the green sheet regardless of our recommendations and we can then make those from the floor of town meeting.

John Flynn addressed the advisory board regarding what the selectmen came up with for the 2 1/2 % increase for elected officials and Duane had gone through the tabor requirements for the step increases for non elected positions. He said that most of these positions have gone 3 years without a step increase and with these recommended increases we are now just 1 step behind to where they should be. The total figure for the step increases is \$2,932. The total for the elected officials is \$2,469.

Kathy said that the school district came in and lowered their number yet again, and they lowered it by \$11,018. So the new number for the school district under draft recommendations is \$5,884,244.

So now for revenue we have \$9,026,529 and for expenses we have \$8,947,311. This gives us \$79,218 of a positive difference.

Kathy said that she spoke with John today and he said that they will have \$94,000 to fund the articles in the special. This includes the \$50,000 for transfers plus the overlay. The selectmen had discussed funding the ADA bathroom for \$30,000, \$12,000 for the police E-911 software, \$2000 for police administrative assistant, and \$4,000 for the police contract. That is a total of \$48,000 which leaves them \$46,000 to figure out if they want to fund the police cruiser or put it into stabilization fund. Kathy asked John to get back to the advisory board when they have made that decision. John said that the highway truck is also on the special warrant because they want to keep that option open until they have even more definite numbers.

Kathy said that the advisory board will now concern themselves with the remaining articles and the \$79,218 that is left to appropriate. We would give \$10,000 to the Treasurer/Accountant software, \$12,000 for the Assessors full list and measure review, and the truck is also on our list, but if we decide not to pursue the truck at this time we would have \$57,218 left over. Kathy asked the board if they would like to put \$17,000 into reserve and put \$40,000 into stabilization. Doug said he would like to do that but he would also like to see a new truck. Kathy said that if the selectmen do not vote to fund the truck from the money that they have remaining to spend in the special, then would you like advisory to spend \$49,000 of the \$57,000 to purchase the truck inside the levy limit. Kathy asked if everyone was in favor of this or would they like more time to think about it. John also mentioned that there is one more article in the special is to establish a stabilization fund for the assessors so that they can start accumulating money, and he knows that there is some confusion about that because they have 2 recurring bills, one is the field review and one is the 3 year revaluation. If we can do this it keeps their budget consistent instead of a spike every 3 years. Michael said he would feel better if Advisory controlled that fund and he also felt that we should be doing this with the police vehicles to, but we don't. Doug said he had one more issue that he would like to discuss and that is the Town House roof. John said with the regular warrant being closed it cannot be on that. John said it would have to have an article at the special town meeting to allow the \$30,000 that's in the bank to be used. Michael asked if there was hesitation to do that. Cliff said he thinks the question is "why has this money been sitting there". Timm said why do we feel that \$25,000 is enough when back in 2000 it looks like there was an override asked for \$42,000. John said that that was a different roof. Carol wanted to know what the resolution was going to be, are they going to deal with it at town meeting. John said that the selectmen have not made a decision on this yet; He said he has only heard about this in the past few meetings and he wants to know where the money is coming from. Cliff said that this money has been brought up to the selectmen every year. Doug asked what the risk of spending it is. John said that if the money is from a bond why not pay it back to the bond. Kathy said that when the whole thing regarding the water district and the private citizens and the land fill came into play she was told by the selectmen in prior years that they were uncomfortable spending that money just in case something went array and they needed to repair. Cliff said to keep in mind that this is real money. Duane said that was the question they ran into last night: was this real money? Kathy said because the selectmen haven't made a decision neither can we.

Cliff then asked how this \$94,000 figure that the selectmen have was arrived at. Kathy said that she was told that there is about \$50,000 that can be transferred from an accumulation of existing accounts such as 7.2 and there is that the assessors had met with the tax collector and that they were comfortable with releasing the \$44,500 form overlay. Kathy said that she realizes that Cliff said there is a formula that has to be taken into account. Cliff said the problem is that that money may not be available. The Assessors did the proper thing by saying that these are the monies of our overlay because we are going to reserve these amounts of monies for ATB cases. Cliff said the next function of that is to find out what the outstanding taxes are against those levies, and he said they are considerable and that is the reason why overlay is there, in case those taxes don't get paid. Cliff said that \$25,000 of the \$44,500 is available as of Jan 1, 2006. He said he has no idea what the collections have been since January 1 because of the lag in time from when the collector reports to the treasurer, who then reports to me. He gets the reports a monthly, for example he gets Februarys report in March. He is going to go to the collector and get an up to date amount against those levies prior to town meeting. All of those funds may not be collected by that time so that is why Cliff said that may not be a correct figure to use. John said he had mentioned to Kathy that an optional article for town meeting would be, with whatever money we came up with at the end we should put it into stabilization.

Kathy said that there is going to be some ballot questions May1, regarding the CPA funds and the highway debt exclusion. The selectmen decided on this last night. They also have June 6 as a tentative date for an operating budget override. They have decided to have the question ready but have not decided whether or not they will follow through with that question or not. Having noted that the green sheets are the responsibility of the advisory board, which we are charged by the bylaw to make our recommendations to the town meeting. If the selectmen decide that they want to offer an alternative budget to the one that we are about to vote on, do we as a board want to allow them to put another column on the green sheets or do we not want to do that. John said that that had not been discussed at the selectmens meeting and he feels that adding another column would add a tremendous amount of confusion.

Kathy said we have a budget of \$8,947,311 and projected revenue of \$9,026,529 for a difference of \$79,218. We have tentatively agreed that we will fund the Treasurer/accountant software for \$10,000 and the assessors full list and measure for \$12,000, leaving us with an additional \$57,218 to decide at a future meeting before town meeting, what if anything we would like to spend that money on.

Michael motioned to accept this budget. Timm seconded. All members were in favor. All members were in favor of recommending favorable action on the treasurer/accountant software and the Assessors full list and measure.

Next scheduled meeting on April 10, 2006 at 6:00pm. Public hearing will be on April 10, 2006 at 6:30pm.

Doug motioned to end meeting. Carol seconded. All in favor. Meeting ended at 6:45pm.

Meeting called to order again at 6:46pm.

Transfer requests for office equipment postage for \$800, for highway dept for the trapping and removal of beavers for \$1200, and highway dept for storm event- shortfall from FEMA reimbursement for \$2312. All were approved.

Doug motioned to end meeting. Timm seconded. Meeting ended at 6:49pm.

APPROVED