

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

6:00 PM

Virtual, via Zoom

Members present: Brian Boyle, Bob Guerriero, Craig Lauer, and Bill Nickles

Members absent: Omid Gharony, Greg Myers

Call to order: The tri-town Financial Committee meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Agenda Item #1: Joint Tri-Town Financial Committee Meeting

- The Financial Advisory Committees from the towns of Bolton, Lancaster, and Stow met jointly to hear a presentation from the Nashoba School Superintendent.
- Nashoba School Superintendent Kirk Downing, with support from Ross Mulkerin, presented the draft FY24 budget for the Nashoba School District.
- The Nashoba School Committee is expected to vote on the final budget on March 21st.
- This portion of the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Call to order: Chairman Brian Boyle called the Bolton Advisory Committee meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Agenda Item #2: Board of Assessors budget (141)

- Jeff Nichols presented the Board of Assessors budget.
- The Wages line item reflected an increase of \$3,822 for a total of \$53,531, which reflects the recommendations of the wage study and a COLA adjustment.
- The GIS line item reflected an increase of \$2,200 to \$7,900 due to increasing GIS costs.
- The Purchase of Services (POS) line item reflected an increase of \$7,540 to \$99,900. POS includes a three-year contract with Regional Resource Group (RRG) to provide assessment services, and also includes funds for appraisal costs that might be needed for court actions. Jeff indicated that a portion of the \$7,540 increase was due to increasing RRG costs, and \$5,000 of the increase was a placeholder for appraisal costs. Jeff also indicated that \$5,000 has been in the budget for several years but had been captured in a different line item. The Committee could not identify where these appraisal costs had been captured in the past, and why the POS line item was increasing by \$5,000, without a corresponding decrement in another line item, if these funds were already in the budget.

- A vote on the Board of Assessors budget was deferred pending clarification of the appraisal costs in the budget.

Agenda Item #3: Minuteman Regional Vocational Tech School budget (302)

- Dr. Kathleen Dawson, superintendent of the Minuteman Regional School, presented the Minuteman school budget.
- The draft Minuteman budget reflected an increase of \$305,745 in the Bolton FY24 assessment. This is primarily due to the decrease in the number of students from non-member towns.
- Dr. Dawson noted that the Chapter 70 aid funds are likely to increase by approximately \$1 million over the previously estimated amount, and that this could result in a significant decrease in the Bolton assessment.
- A vote on the Minuteman school assessment was deferred pending additional details on Chapter 70 aid and the impacts on Bolton's assessment.

Agenda Item #4: Nashoba Regional School District budget (301)

- Following the presentation by the NRSD Superintendent, a vote on the NRSD assessment was deferred on the School Committee approves their final budget.

Agenda Item #5: Advisory Committee Business

- Minutes from the 7 February Advisory Committee meeting were reviewed and approved.
- **MOTION:** Craig Lauer moved to approve the meeting minutes; seconded by Bill Nickles. **VOTING IN FAVOR** Brian Boyle, Bob Guerriero, Craig Lauer, and Bill Nickles. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (4-0).**

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM

Approved by the Advisory Committee