

Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Location: Town Hall, Selectmen's Room

Meeting called to order: 7:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Boyle, Kirchner, Myerson, Lauer, Hurd

Absent: Benjamin

Chairman Boyle changes agenda to accommodate Business Manager Patricia Marone and Facilities Director Robert Frieswick from the Nashoba Regional School District, who provided an update on the boiler system at Florence Sawyer School.

Frieswick said the boiler's front-end system has failed, making it impossible to control heat levels in the classrooms. The school district is seeking to upgrade the front-end immediately and to seek a Green Communities grant for the upgrade. Marone said NRSD plans to pay for the controls now, with the cost being added to Bolton's July district assessment. (The repair had been budgeted for \$25,000, but the actual bid came in at \$22,825.) Marone said she had discussed the approach to funding the repair with Town Administrator Don Lowe, who suggested taking this approach to take some pressure of the Advisory reserve.

On a motion by Myerson, seconded by Lauer, the committee unanimously approved the repair to the front-end boiler system at Florence Sawyer School.

Transfers:

The Advisory Committee then acted on three transfer requests from Advisory Reserve:

APPROVED unanimously the transfer of \$8,234 to the post-secondary vocational education line of Assabet Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School. (Hurd/Myerson) Nashoba Regional High School must pay for the first half of the tuition. Nashoba Supt. Clenchy determined that there was a specific need for the student in question to attend Assabet. Administrator Lowe says this if the first time Clenchy has made such a referral. Details are confidential.

APPROVED unanimously the transfer of \$110.13, requested by the town treasurer, to the unemployment compensation line. (Lauer/Myerson)

APPROVED unanimously the transfer of \$4,000 into the tax taking account. Town Accountant Rogers said the funds will enable the town to retain a tax title attorney, so the town can begin foreclosing on parcels and auctioning them off. Rogers said no homes were involved, just land. (Kirchner/Lauer)

Other Business:

The committee then did a quick review of the overall 2020 budget. Boyle said he would serve as liaison for the Town Hall items, including the Board of Assessors. Kirchner suggested reviewing the “purchase of services” lines for all departments.

The following accounts were discussed in some detail:

Account 172, Conservation Commission, showed a significant variance from previous years. Liaison Joe Myerson will review the account with Conservation Agent Rebecca Longvall. Liaison Connie Benjamin approved his meeting without her.

Account 220, Fire Department. This account has showed a significant increase, probably because of the hiring of a new full-time chief. Liaisons are Lauer and Kirchner.

Account 299, Dispatch, showed an increase of \$200,901 over 2019. Boyle said he will ask Administrator Lowe for an explanation, but he did not believe the town could modify this amount.

Account 541, Council on Aging, showed an increase because the rent has doubled. Kirchner asked for a copy of the lease. Boyle is liaison.

Account 692, Celebration/Memorial Day. This line shows an increase to include replacement of the flags on Main Street. Longer poles should prevent the flags from tangling in utility wires.

Other budget questions: Rogers said the town anticipates an overall increase of about 10 percent in the rest of the budget, including an increase of roughly 30 percent to the Workers’ Compensation account.

Increases can be expected in the OPEB line, and health insurance has also gone up, as more town employees are buying into the plan, she said.

Boyle commented that the town is facing a large number of capital requests. He suggested trying to coordinate budget reviews with the Capital Planning Committee, so department heads would not have to make duplicate presentations.

Outstanding minutes were approved unanimously. (Lauer/Kirchner)

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. (Hurd/Kirchner)

-- Submitted by Committee Secretary Joe Myerson