

Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: Wednesday, January 16, 2019

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

7:02 p.m. Meeting called to order

Animal Control Officer—Account 292

Susan Latham, the town's animal control officer, told the committee that her total budget request of \$20,352 was level funded, except for COLA. Supplies were down, while purchase of services increased by \$50. Most of the increase in purchase of services is for possible rental of dog boarding space at her assistant's facility. There was some discussion of bears and coyotes, and Latham told Advisory that injured wildlife was taken to the Tufts veterinary facility wherever possible. Chairman Boyle thanked Latham for reducing her non-wages budget by \$50.

Advisory Action: Approved Unanimously (Benjamin/Myerson)

Parks and recreation—Accounts 630 & 650

Commission Chair Laura Roberts and member Lauren Cilley attended. They said the Parks (Account 650) request of \$3,620 is level-funded. Most of those funds, listed as purchase of services, is used for rental of portable toilets: Two at the town beach, two at Memorial Field and two at Furbush Fields.

The Recreation budget request (Account 630) of \$37,603 is roughly \$12,000 higher than that for the current fiscal year. Roberts and Cilley explained that 'supplies' line of \$3,890 includes items used at events, including the town Halloween and Easter events for children. Cilley said 'equipment' expenditures included swings, benches and sprinkler-head modifications for Memorial Field. She added that Bolton Youth Baseball also contributes to improvements of the baseball diamond.

The additional expense of \$12,000 is largely due to the request for a part-time parks and recreation coordinator. This would be a new position, needed to help enforce Parks & Recreation policies, interface with the public and issue permits. At the moment, there is no one at Town Hall to answer requests for permits, while the existence of the Town Common has increased such requests. The coordinator would be paid \$10 per hour.

Advisory Action: The board took no action on Parks & Recreation, because of the proposal to create a new position.

8:00 p.m. Conservation Commission—Account 171

Conservation Commission Chairman Brian Berube and Conservation Agent Rebecca Longvall attended, to review the Conservation Commission's budget request. During discussions, participants realized that \$6,000 to cover the town's share of a state matching grant for trail improvements appeared twice in the original budget request. The duplicate request appeared under 'land/capital improvement,' as well as under 'purchase of services.'

Questions were raised about the cost of seasonal mowing (up from \$10,000 to \$12,000) and conducting a vernal pool survey, for which \$250 was requested. Longvall said state regulations require that the town inventory its vernal pools and that the process has been interrupted.

The Conservation Commission agreed to reduce its equipment budget, to eliminate advertising and review other requests.

Chairman Boyle said Advisory would defer action on the Conservation budget. He advised the Commission to consider putting off the requested trail improvements, in light of the budgeting guidelines that called for level funding.

Board of Health—Accounts 439, 510, 522

Chris Rodgers of the Board of Health discussed the three accounts in his board's jurisdiction:

Landfill—account 439

This account is level-funded at \$6,100, which includes monitoring wells in the vicinity of the capped and closed Bolton landfill. He said the board's main concern is the wells of homes near the old landfill site. The state DEP has yet to respond to a request, made in 2017, for permission to stop cleaning out silted-up monitoring wells, as no leachate has been detected. The budget, which covers labor, laboratory costs, gas and stream monitoring, and four homes.

Well monitoring/ capping of landfill. Joel Frisch explains the monitoring wells and gas-sampling sites. Wells are deep, but filled of silt. Also sample residences in surrounding area. Sampled houses in gravel pit. Everything was fine. We haven't really seen an issue. Some soil gas. No evidence of leachate in wells of surrounding homes. Asked DEP if we didn't have to clean out silted wells. Asked in 2017—still haven't heard from them. Money: labor, lab costs, gas monitoring, stream monitoring and four houses. Almost always under budget.

Advisory Action: Approved unanimously (Hurd, Benjamin)

Nursing—Account 522

This request of \$6,036 reflects a 5% increase from the Nashoba Valley Board of Health.

Advisory Action: Approved unanimously (Hurd, Benjamin)

Bolton Board of Health—Account 510

The increase in the 'wages' line to \$35,632 reflects paying the board's administrative assistant for an extra two hours per week. The board wholeheartedly supports this increase, as she needs the extra time to complete her work. An additional increase in the assessment from the Nashoba Valley Associated Boards of Health, to \$13,266, reflects an automatic increase. The Board of Health's budget request totals \$51,323.

Advisory Action: Approved unanimously (Hurd, Benjamin)

9:12 p.m. Meeting adjourns unanimously. (Hurd, Benjamin)

--Submitted by Joe Myerson, secretary.