Advisory Meeting, 4/3/2023 Approved 5/8/23

Melville Room, Town Hall

Meeting began at 6:03 PM.

Present: Carol Fitzgerald, Sandra Sheehan, Doug Boyd, Kathy Pessolano, Heather Turcotte

Guests: Dick Patullo, Cliff Bombard

Agenda: Review of department budgets for FY 2024.

Minutes

Review of minutes from 3/27/23 meeting.

Sandra made a motion to approve the minutes. Doug seconded. All voted in favor

HWRSD update

Assessment letters were sent to the towns that also include capital items. The total is higher than expected. Some school committee members may be willing to ask for reconsideration of the budget amount.

Parks and Recreation

Carrie Joseph, Eric Jacobson and Terry Ford were present to discuss their desire to add the Director position to the budget for 32 hours. Anticipated duties include creating new programming for all age groups; using TWB for more program; grant research and writing; volunteer coordination; and supervision of administrative assistant. New programming could include expanded pickleball, pickup basketball, car shows, Fall festival, whiffeball tournaments. They also anticipate that the administrative assistant’s role will not diminish, but could increase if there is more diverse programming.

The group also discussed some repairs for the spray park. Doug indicated that they would need to get a proposal to the CPA committee next week.

Board of Selectmen

The Advisory Committee joined the Board’s meeting to clarify some final budget items including town administrator, employee benefits, property and liability, stormwater, and Board of Health shared services. Bob Markel reported that there is $500,000 - $600,000 in unallocated ARPA funds. The Board then reviewed the remaining articles in the warrant.

Advisory left the BOS meeting and returned to their session. Discussion in preparation for next week’s Public Hearing. Advisory will meet at 6:00 PM; Public Hearing will begin at 7:00 PM.

Dick indicated that at 2 ½% = $350,000 in revenue plus new growth. He predicts that we can absorb $600,000 with a predictable tax increase. We are currently operating at $1million below the levy limit.

Kathy made a motion to adjourn. Heather seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Recorded by Carol Fitzgerald