

Advisory Meeting, 3/21/22
Melville Room, Town Hall

Approved 3/28/22

Meeting began at 6:03 PM.

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

Absent: Heather Turcotte

Guests: Dick Patullo, Cliff Bombard

Review of 3/21/22 draft town budget Excel spreadsheet.

Bob Markel sent the committee information about a potential clerk. However, it appears that this candidate is interested in a position that includes benefits, so he is considering rolling the Records Access Officer and Zoom attendant and Advisory Clerk roles into one position to make it more attractive. We will follow up on Bob to indicate that we'd like to interview the candidate if she is viable.

Spreadsheet set-up – ensure we add “draft” to the document prior to publication and remove 2019 and 2020 columns used for Advisory reference.

General notes – all non-bargained positions covered by the Collins compensation review have been vetted by Dick and are appropriately assigned. The highway department and superintendent contracts should be finalized by the Board of Selectmen tonight, so we should have those final figures for inclusion next week.

Budget Review

Unemployment – question as to whether \$10,000 is sufficient to cover potential costs.

Park & Rec – salaries are still a question as they appear to be adding a maintenance position. We are waiting to confirm their attendance at an upcoming meeting.

Highway Paving – Cliff reported that Mark Langone will have a hard time using the FY 22 funding due to changes in the bid process. They are hoping to secure a contract prior to 6/30/22 in order to encumber the funds.

Noteworthy areas of increase include:

Property & Liability Insurance	\$25,000
Employee Benefits	\$36,000
Non-contracted salaries	Dick will get this figure for us (value of step and 5% COLA)

Noteworthy areas of savings:

County Retirement	\$24,000 (4 less employees reported for 10/1/21)
Green Meadows Bond	\$183,600 (Last year was the last payment on the 20 year bond!!)

Draft Warrant includes a new excavator. The BOS is planning to use ARPA funds for this purchase.

Miscellaneous updates

Doug indicated that the HRWSD is forming a small subgroup to review the funding formulas in the regional school agreement. Maura Ryan is leading this effort; Sue Bunnell from Wilbraham is participating and they are looking for a member of the Hampden Advisory Committee to participate as well.

Minutes

Kathy made a motion to approve minutes of the 3/7/22 and 3/14/22 Advisory meetings. Sandra seconded. All in favor.

Carol made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Kathy seconded. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM.

Recorded by Carol Fitzgerald