Advisory Meeting, 2/6/2023 Approved 2/13/23

Melville Room, Town Hall

Meeting began at 6:05 PM.

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

Absent: Kathy Pessolano

Guests: Richard Patullo, Cliff Bombard

Review of department budgets for FY 2024.

Board of Selectmen – re COLA

The Advisory Committee joined the Board of Selectmen meeting in the auditorium to discuss the COLA increase for non-bargained staff salaries. Advisory recommends 4% based on recent and anticipated inflation and wage adjustments figures. Advisory wants to be sure the town can continue to support staff and maintain competitive salaries. BOS agreed and voted to use the Advisory recommendation for FY 2024 budgeting. Advisory members continued their meeting in the Melville Room.

Minutes

Review of the 1/30/23 minutes. Sandra made a motion to approve; Heather second. All in favor.

General

Susie Young has resigned as administrative support to Advisory Committee.

Dick indicated that he would generate a new salary chart for FY 2024 based on the 4% COLA amount.

Cemetery Commission

No one appeared for the scheduled appointment.

Planning Board

Madison Pixley reviewed the Planning Board budget. Administrative Assistant salary is the major adjustment for this budget. The Board is working on a Master Plan for the town and has secured a $75,000 grant. Advisory had some questions regarding the grant in terms of time frame (will it extend past FY 2024 and whether it will cover the entire cost of the Plan).

Parks & Recreation Department

Carrie Joseph and Terry Ford presented the budget. They are looking to add back the Director position (it was eliminated back in 2005/2006). It has been difficult to rely on the Commissioners to manage programs on a part-time basis and they would like to grow non-sports programs in the town. Advisory recommended they finalize a job description and qualifications with the Town Administrator and confirm a final salary figure for the budget. They will also need to consider any changes in the Administrative Assistant responsibilities if the Director is added.

Discussion regarding the gym attendants. They are paid through the revolving account, but appear on the budget and, therefore, are part of the tax base. Other departments that pay positions out of revolving accounts do not include them in the budget.

Heather made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Doug second. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM.

Recorded by Carol Fitzgerald