

Financial Advisory Committee Meeting  
November 20, 2013 – 4 pm

Members present: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt; Chairman; Les Baynes, Co-Chairman; Barbara Shriber; Thomas Durawa; Alex Rentumis; Mort Fearey, Jr.; Bob Clay.

Others Present: Art Smadbeck, Selectmen; Pam Dolby, Town Administrator; John Stevens, Edgartown School; Susan Mercier, Edg. School Committee; Amy Tierney, Supt. Office; Dr. James Weiss, Superintendent; Wanda Williams, Town Clerk; Adam Darack, Computer Svcs.

Meeting called to order at 4:05 pm. A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve Minutes for September 18, 2013 and October 23, 2013.

Adam Darack, Computer Svc. was before the FAC to request a transfer of funds for recabling the Town Hall servers. He described a failure of the system in place for many years and how difficult the current system is to repair. He recommended that the entire cable system be replaced in the Town Hall as soon as possible, with a backup system located in the police station. (Attached is a summary of the expected costs.) Because of the need for the system to be functional, work has begun on replacing the system. Pam Dolby will place an article on the STM warrant in April to reimburse the reserve fund the \$10,000. request. The chairman suggested that the FAC be notified when emergency repairs begin before they meet to approve the transfer. A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the \$10,000. transfer to 011555-558002.

Wanda Williams, Town Clerk was before the FAC to request a transfer of funds for the Assistant Town Clerk position due to an increase in hours due to workload, training and office coverage. Personnel Board approval for the increase hours has been received. A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the transfer of \$5,720. to #01161002-511014.

John Stevens, Edg. School principal was present to give the FAC an update on budget hearings and any changes made to the earlier presentation. (Attached is a copy of his expenses for FY15). He explained the increases in fixed contracts for personnel (79.2 staff) and a COLA of 2.5% and a modest expense increase, the first in his tenure. He invited the FAC and Selectmen to attend a meeting on December 11, at 9:30 am in the faculty dining room to finalize FY15. An email will be sent to all committee members.

Dr. James Weiss, Superintendent was present to give the FAC an update on their shared services budget. (Attached is a handout given at the meeting). He went over the increases and explained that federal and state grant funds that were sequestered have increased the amount needed from the towns. Bridge programs, new teachers and staff contracts for approximately 35 employees were discussed. He was asked if the school sends out RFP's for such items as workers comp insurance; what the costs of unemployment are and how they are funding their OPEB liabilities. As of this year, instead of counting on excess/deficiency leftover funds, they are appropriating a budget line of \$150,000. for OPEB. The chairman also said if the excess/deficiency has any leftover funds that could also be appropriated for OPEB. They have a very low unemployee benefit rate, one or two a year and workers' comp insurance is scrutinized.

The FAC thanked the school department for their participation in the pre-budget informational sessions.

The FAC discussed the upcoming departmental meetings in December. Smaller departments within the Prop. 2 ½ confines, will be invited to meet with them and the selectmen on December 5, 2013 at 11:30 am. Larger departments will meet on Dec. 9 and 11 at 3pm and 4 pm. An email will be sent to the Town Administrator to make sure the Selectmen will be available. The fire/ambulance; highway and police will come in 12/9 at 3 pm and water and wastewater will come in on 12/11 at 4 pm. The budget books will be available on 12/4, along with a budget hearing schedule.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Avakian,  
Assistant