

**TOWN OF HULL  
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

Date of Meeting: 2/21/23

Meeting Start: 7:03pm

Adjourn: 9:45 pm

Member	Present	Absent	Other
David Clinton	X		Phil Lemnios (PL)
Jay Polito	X		Chris Russo
Dan Sullivan	X		William Frazier
Chad Wolfe	EXC		John Struzziery
Bob Carney	X		Catherine Joaquim
Jason Frady	X		Brian Kiely
Pat Cormier	X		Mike McDonough
Stephen Kiley	EXC		Chris Gardner
Peter Larsen	X		
Robyn Healy	X		
Paul Schneider	X		

Exhibits	Description
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**Sewer Dept. Budget spread sheet**

**DPW Budget spread sheet**

**Town Manager Update:**

State aid will be announced in early March. Rep. Joan Meschino and Senator Patrick O'Connor will present state aid and grants to the Select Board on March 15.

PL cited the accomplishments in the Fire Dept. in managing:

Medical certifications

Fire training and certifications

Employment and union challenges

Managing Paramedic standards above EMT response standards

**Fire Chief Chris Russo presented the dept. budget:**

Due to supply chain issues the lead time needed for an ambulance order is 24 months, for a fire truck, it's 48 months, and this creates budgeting challenges because of the need to match the order with town approved budget items. If the order can't be filled when the budget is authorized, then the budget item has to be represented at a following town meeting. Due to the lead time for replacement, he would like to budget replacements of fire and ambulance units on the basis of their expected useful life to the town rather than wait until a unit fails.

Overtime could be lower but has to anticipate the requirement for coverage when staff are out due to Covid.

PL noted that total overtime is lower, however, because the dept. is at full staffing levels for the first time in a long time, an accomplishment helped by changing the paramedic staffing levels and opening positions that don't require paramedic certification.

Chris Russo added that the percentage breakdown of Paramedic staffing to EMT staffing is 60/40 and that all medical calls have paramedic capabilities.

2800 calls are made to the dept. per year and that number has been consistent for 10 years.

The ratio of medical calls to fire calls is 85/15.

250-275 calls have to be answered by surrounding towns when our units are already in service. Billing always gets credited to the servicing town so the loss of billing on those calls amounts to approximately \$3900 on calls that are considered Advanced Life Support (ALS).

We bill for ambulance services at roughly 50% of our surrounding towns. The rates get recalculated every April.

#### **Sewer Dept Budget:**

John Struzziery presented the budget:

Sewer rates will increase 4% and Base account rates will increase from \$15 per month to \$20 in August.

In acknowledgement of annual abatements and uncollected bills, the number of Hull units is being adjusted down from 315,00 to 303,000. This will present a more realistic revenue stream for planning purposes.

Balancing previous appropriations with construction timetables is always a challenge due to supply chain issues and inflation. One of the consequences will be a plan to remove Article 8 from the warrant which if not possible will have the dept. calling for No Action at Town Meeting.

\$256,413 has been added as a line item under Capital Expenses as a buffer for the expected repairs to the holding tanks.

Energy costs are up 18% due to billing increases from Hull Light.

Most capital projects are ongoing but new projects are for HVAC units being moved to the second floor of the Building in order to prevent flooding damage, the repair and remediation of the outfall pipes on the ocean floor, and the repairs to the holding and mixing tanks.

Article 11 on the warrant will seek the funds for the outfall pipes

A new Federal requirement is that outfall pipes must be inspected every 5 years and pass a dilution test.

#### **DPW:**

The DPW budget as presented by Chris Gardner proposes mostly ongoing normal operations covering everything from seaweed removal to cemetery maintenance.

The total departmental budget is increasing by 2.5% and is made up mostly of wage increases and inflation.

Motion to review Feb. 6 meeting minutes by Jason Frady, second by Jay Polito. Minutes were approved 7-2  
Robyn Healey and Pat Cormier abstained due to not having been at the meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 9:45 Robyn Healey, second by Dan Sullivan. Unanimous vote.