

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 8, 2019

Place: Town Hall

In attendance: Committee Members Donna Smallwood, Victor Baltera, Bob Curley, Tom Belyea, Dave Anderson, Libby Claypoole, Eric Haskell, Eryn Kelley, Julie Strehle, George Danis, Evan Sheehan, Andy McElaney, Davalene Cooper, Ed Gaydos, Nancy MacDonald and Town Accountant Sue Nickerson

Absent: None

Chairman Smallwood called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Questions from the Public on Items not on the Agenda

Jim O'Hare stated that there were a number of projects facing the Town and expressed a concern about prospective debt, particularly if the Town were to purchase the Water Company. He commended the analysis of Richard Norman previously provided to the AdCom on the Water Company acquisition.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting held on December 18, 2018 were approved by a vote of 12-0-2.

Budget Hearings

- Health Department – Eryn Kelley introduced this budget. Susan Sarni, Executive Health Officer, provided an overview of this budget which supports adult immunization programs, domestic abuse resources, food establishment inspections, health screenings, water testing, communicable disease surveillance and tobacco control. In addition, the Board of Health develops procedures and safeguards implemented by regulations to protect the public and the environment and engages in code enforcement. She described the Department's involvement in septic and Title V inspections and that the Department was involved in fewer immunizations. Ms. Sarni requested \$309,032 for salaries and \$36,797 for expenses for a total of \$345,829. Ms. Kelley recommended these amounts.

- Treasurer/Collector – With department head Jean Montgomery unable to attend, Tom Belyea introduced this budget which supports management of the Town’s cash, investment of trust funds and cash, debt issuance, tax lien deeds and auctions of land of low value. Mr. Belyea recommended the requested amounts of \$350,050 for salaries, \$46,792 for expenses and \$10,000 for tax title costs for a total of \$406,842.
- Bare Cove Park – This agenda item was postponed to permit the attendance of Bare Cove Park representatives.
- Elder Services – Davalene Cooper introduced this budget. Barbara Farnsworth, Director of Elder Affairs, provided an overview of this budget which supports the operation of the Senior Center and the wide variety of programs, services and activities provided to the Town’s citizens over 60. In addition, the Department assists with applications for benefits programs, provides transportation services and utilizes and directs a large corps of volunteers. Hingham is one of nine Senior Centers in Massachusetts that are nationally accredited. Ms. Farnsworth requested \$255,176 for salaries and \$19,215 for expenses for a total of \$274,391. Ms. Cooper recommended these amounts. Chair Smallwood expressed appreciation for the many years of distinguished service provided by Ms. Farnsworth, who will be retiring and moving.
- Veterans Services, GAR Hall, Celebrations – Ed Gaydos introduced these budgets. Keith Jermyn, Veterans Agent, joined by Benefits Administrator Lisa Potts, provided an overview of these budgets. The Veterans Services budget supports the administration of benefits for qualifying veterans, advocacy for veterans, emergency financial assistance, the coordination of military ceremonies and events and participation with regional, state and federal veterans’ organizations to advocate for veterans. Mr. Jermyn requested \$105,102 for salaries, \$7,019 for expenses and \$243,002 for veterans’ benefits for a total of \$355,123. My. Gaydos recommended these amounts. Mr. Jermyn requested \$16,256 for expenses for the GAR Hall budget. The GAR Hall serves as a museum and monument to Hingham’s involvement with our military. It is open to the public on the first and third Saturdays of the month. Mr. Gaydos recommended the requested amount.

Mr. Jermyn requested \$15,661 for expenses for the Celebrations budget which supports the placement of over 3,000 flags as well as wreaths on the graves and monuments dedicated to veterans as well as the Battle of Grape Island celebration. Mr. Gaydos recommended the requested amount. Mr. Gaydos will provide a further report as to whether the Battle of Grape Island funds should not be treated as an additional request.

- South Shore Country Club – Bob Curley introduced this budget which is an enterprise fund paid for by SSCC operations. Kevin Whalen, the Director of Operations/Golf Superintendent, provided an overview of this budget which supports the operation of the golf course, bowling alley, restaurant, pool and simulator at the SSCC. The budget was lower this year due to the retirement of debt for the irrigation system. This reduction will be partially offset by the purchase of new fertilization and mowing equipment. The swimming pool is nearing the end of its useful life and is the subject of regular engineering inspections to assure its safe operating condition. Fundraising activity for a new pool remains active. Christine Smith, Chair of the Country Club Management Committee indicated there would be a Kentucky Derby fundraising event which would be an annual occurrence. Mr. Whalen requested an overall budget of \$1,943,489 and Mr. Curley recommended this amount.
- Health Imperatives – Andrew McElaney introduced this budget which supports efforts to prevent and respond to domestic violence and sexual assault. The requested amount was \$2,700 which Mr. McElaney recommended.
- South Shore Women’s Center – Mr. McElaney introduced this budget which supports domestic violence prevention and intervention. The requested amount was \$3,700 which Mr. McElaney recommended. Mr. McElaney will provide a further report on whether the amount of funding is appropriate or whether alternatives should be considered for both this budget and the Health Imperatives budget.

Liaison Updates

- Planning – Victor Baltera reported that hearings on the zoning warrant articles would commence in January.
- Schools – George Danis reported that the Preliminary Proposed School Budget was \$54,940,451 which represents an increase of \$2,933,753 or 5.64%. Evan Sheehan reported that the School Committee anticipates a number of warrant articles to address conditions at the Foster School, the application for MSBA funding for the Foster School, the clerestory windows at the High School gym and the ability to lease vans for 5 years.
- Community Preservation Committee – Dave Anderson reported that there are now requests totaling approximately \$1.6 million for available funds of approximately \$1.3 million. CPC will vote its recommendations for awards tomorrow.
- Cleaner Greener Hingham – Mr. Belyea reported that a warrant article banning plastic bags is expected.

Advisory Committee Housekeeping Items

The next meeting will be on 1/15/19.

Matters not anticipated within 48 hours:

A joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen, the Water Acquisition Study Group and the Advisory Committee to hear the report of the Town's independent consultants concerning the potential acquisition of the water company assets will be held 1/10/19 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Adjourn – 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Curley, Secretary

List of Documents Distributed at this Meeting:

Agenda

Minutes from 12/18/18

Budget Scorecard as of 12/18/18

Advisory Committee Calendar as of DATE

AdCom approved on / /2019