

Advisory Committee – Water Company Acquisition Subcommittee

Minutes of Meeting held on 1/29/19 at Town Hall

Subcommittee Members present: Victor Baltera, Bob Curley, Libby Claypoole, Dave Anderson, Eryn Kelley

Subcommittee Chair Victor Baltera called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

This was an organizational meeting in view of the recommendation of the Water Company Acquisition Study Committee to acquire the Water Company assets and the scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen on 1/31/19 to review that recommendation and possibly vote on it.

Subcommittee members Libby Claypoole and Dave Anderson were requested to review the financial aspects of the potential acquisition including review of the Anderson analysis and model when available and issues relating to operational costs, transitional costs and bonding. Ms. Claypoole made observations about the need for adjustments of the amounts expected for capital expenditures, whether there was a need for a Warrant Article for an operating budget, the need for a 5 year capital plan and consideration of a revenue bond as opposed to a general obligation bond. Mr. Baltera observed that the Advisory Committee does not review the budget of the Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant. Jim Dondero of Anderson will be available to the Subcommittee. Ms. Claypoole noted that 3/22/19 (corrected date is 3/21/19) was the deadline for a ballot question if needed. The question of the impact of lost tax revenue from Aquarion was also raised.

Subcommittee members Eryn Kelley and Bob Curley were requested to review the governance and operational aspects of the potential acquisition. Issues to be addressed included the Board of Selectmen serving as Water Commissioners and the flexibility to alter such a structure in the future; the relationship with Hull and Cohasset and the possible use of an intermunicipal agreement; a Citizens Advisory Board; a Superintendent overseeing a contract operator; the availability of contract operators; the number of additional Town employees that would be needed; procurement; and the identification of unknowns.

The Subcommittee adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Bob Curley

Documents Used - Agenda

Approved by the Subcommittee on 2/11/19