

## **Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** January 29, 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 7:35 P.M.

*Questions from the Public on Items not on the Agenda - None*

*Approval of Minutes*

Minutes of the Meetings held on January 15, 2019 and January 22, 2019 were approved by votes of 13-0. Mr. Haskell arrived after these votes.

*Budget reviews*

- Bare Cove Park – Tom Belyea provided an overview of this budget which supports the operations of Bare Cove Park. Mr. Belyea recommended \$18,370 for salaries and \$9,390 for expenses for a total of \$27,760. The Bare Cove Park Committee operates a qualifying race for the Boston Marathon from which they have a budget surplus of \$2,000 from last year. A reserve fund transfer may possibly be required this year.
- Budget question reports – Andy McElaney reported that the Police Chief considered the budgeted amounts for Health Imperatives and for the South Shore Women’s Center to be appropriate and in line with the contributions of other towns. After consultation with Assistant Town Administrator Michelle Monsegur, the budgeted amount for the Battle of Grape Island will not be considered as an additional request.

*Warrant Article hearings and votes*

- A – Hannah Lincoln Whiting Fund – Nancy MacDonald provided an overview of this Article and comment and a favorable recommendation. This Article addresses the appointment of a member to the Committee which has charge of the Fund. The vote to approve the recommendation was 13-0. Mr. Haskell was not present at the time of this vote.
- B – Assume Liability for DCR – Nancy MacDonald provided an overview of this Article and comment and a favorable recommendation. This Article calls for the Town to assume liability for damages that may be incurred by work to be performed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation and authorizes the Board of Selectmen to execute and deliver an indemnity bond to the Commonwealth. The vote to approve the recommendation was 13-0-1. Mr. Haskell abstained as he was arriving at the time of the vote and after the discussion.
- C – Report of Various Town Committees - Nancy MacDonald provided an overview of this Article and comment and a favorable recommendation. This Article recommends that the Town receive the reports of Town Committees, Commissions and the Historian. The vote to approve the recommendation was 14-0.
- E – Salaries of Town Officers – Ed Gaydos provided an overview of this Article and comment and a favorable recommendation. This Article fixes the salaries of the Selectmen, Assessors, Town Clerk and Municipal Light Board. The vote to approve the recommendation was 14-0.
- G – Transfer from Stabilization Fund – Andy McElaney provided an overview of this Article and comment and a favorable recommendation. This Article provides for the transfer of \$178,836 from the Stabilization Fund for the purpose of reducing the FY 20 tax rate. The vote to approve the recommendation was 14-0.
- J – Building Department Revolving Fund – Davalene Cooper provided an overview of this Article and comment and a favorable recommendation. This Article provides a cap of \$350,000 on transfers from this fund which is used to pay the salaries of plumbing, gas and electrical inspectors. The vote to approve the recommendation was 14 – 0.

- K – Elder Services Revolving Fund – Davalene Cooper provided an overview of this Article and comment and a favorable recommendation. This article provides a cap of \$70,000 on transfers from this fund which is used to pay expenses associated with programs for senior residents. The vote to approve the recommendation was 14-0.
- M – Acceptance of Easements – Tom Belyea provided an overview of this Article and comment and a favorable recommendation. This Article authorizes the Board of Selectmen to accept easements voluntarily granted to the Town. The vote to approve the recommendation was 14-0.

### *Warrant Article process update*

The text of the Warrant Articles will be available on Friday.

### *Liaison Updates*

- Capital Outlay – Libby Claypoole reported that the target of the Capital Outlay Committee is \$2.4 million. This includes the capital requests of the Schools.
- Harbor Development – There will be a Warrant Article for dredging involving \$5 million with an anticipated reimbursement of \$2.5 million through State grants.
- Library – Eric Haskell reported that the Library Trustees voted 10-4 to support a Warrant Article seeking the funds needed for the Library project, which may require a debt exclusion. Ms. Claypoole observed that there is a deadline of 3/22/19 (corrected date 3/21/19) for matters which need to be addressed on the Town Election ballot.
- Planning – Victor Baltera reported that hearings on the Planning Warrant Articles are ongoing and that votes are expected on 2/13/19.
- Schools – Dave Anderson reported that there had been a presentation of the FY 20 draft budget on 1/27/19 attended by the School Committee, School Administration and the AdCom Educational Subcommittee. The draft budget proposes an increase of 5.4%. Personnel costs comprise 84% of the budget and if no additions were considered the increase would be 3.4%.

- Water Company Acquisition – Victor Baltera reported that the Water Company Acquisition Study Committee voted 5-0 to recommend that the acquisition of the Water Company assets was both feasible and advisable. The AdCom Water Company Acquisition Subcommittee met to address issues to be studied .

*Advisory Committee Housekeeping Items*

On Tuesday 2/5/19 there will be a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen to review the School budget

*Matters not anticipated within 48 hours: None*

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Curley, Secretary

List of Documents Distributed at this Meeting:

Agenda

Draft Minutes of Meetings on 1/25/19 and 1/22/19

Warrant Articles A,B,C,E,G,J,K,M

Budget Scorecard updated through 1/22/19

AdCom approved on 2/5/2019