

## Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date:** February 5, 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*

None

### *Reserve Fund Transfer*

The South Shore Country Club requested a Reserve Fund Transfer of \$37,500 for repairs necessary to open the swimming pool for the upcoming summer season. The work will include leak detection and prevention which is mainly expected to involve caulking around the perimeter of the top of the pool. The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously in support of this Transfer. The Advisory Committee voted 11-0-1 in favor of this transfer. Eric Haskell and Nancy MacDonald had not as yet arrived and Julie Strehle abstained.

### *Approval of Minutes*

Minutes of the Meeting held on January 29, 2019 were approved by a vote of 13-0. Nancy MacDonald had not arrived as yet.

### *Warrant Article Hearings*

- O – Unpaid Bill of a Previous Year. Davalene Cooper presented an overview of this Article, a Comment and a Recommendation. This Article will authorize the payment of a bill from FY 16 in the amount of \$821.20 which was only recently submitted to the Town. The Advisory Committee voted

13-0 to approve the Recommendation in favor of payment. Nancy MacDonald had not yet arrived.

- W - Installation of Fiber Optic Municipal Area Network – Julie Strehle provided an overview of this Article and IT Director Steve Becker added information. In conjunction with the end of its existing contract with the Town, Comcast may discontinue coverage from the fiber optic municipal area network (“I-NET”) which enables data and telephone connectivity between Town buildings. This Article would provide funding not to exceed \$500,000 for the Town to install its own fiber optic cables for a new I-NET to connect Town buildings and to provide for redundancy to facilitate the reliability of the system. Ms. Strehle provided a Comment and a favorable Recommendation. The Advisory Committee voted 14-0 in favor of the Recommendation.

#### *Joint session with the Board of Selectmen – School Budget presentation*

Members of the Advisory Committee joined the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee. At the joint meeting, John Ferris, Director of Business and Support Services for the Hingham School made a power point presentation of the proposed FY 20 School budget. The preliminary budget request was for \$54,940,450, a 5.64% increase. Since then, budget refinements have reduced the proposed budget to \$54,810,830, which represents an increase of \$2,804,133 or 5.39%.

#### *Warrant Article Hearings (continued)*

After a short recess, the Advisory Committee resumed Warrant Article hearings.

- R – Property Tax Exemption for Veterans whose property has been conveyed to a Trust. Ed Gaydos provided an overview, a proposed Comment and a favorable recommendation. This Article proposes that the Town accept the provisions of the BRAVE Act, M.G.L. c.59 s.5, clause

Twenty-second G which would allow a property tax exemption to veterans who have transferred title to the property in which they were domiciled to a trust. The Town would be reimbursed partially or in full by the Commonwealth. The vote to approve the recommendation was 12-0. Evan Sheehan and George Danis were not present.

- S – Property Tax Exemption for Gold Star Parents – Ed Gaydos presented an overview, a proposed Comment and a favorable recommendation. This Article proposes that the Town accept the provisions of the BRAVE Act, M.G.L. c.59 s.5, to provide for a full property tax exemption for parents or guardians of veterans who died during active duty service or are missing in action and presumed dead. The Town would be fully reimbursed by the Commonwealth. The vote to approve the recommendation was 12-0. Evan Sheehan and George Danis were not present.

### *Liaison Updates*

Capital Outlay – Ms. Claypoole reported that the target remains \$2.4 million. The Committee is exploring funding sources to address the most top priority needs possible.

Community Preservation Committee – Dave Anderson reported that the Committee will be meeting tomorrow to review Grant Agreements and for further discussion of the Plymouth River School request.

Schools – Dave Anderson reported that the Advisory Committee Education Subcommittee will meet on Thursday at 6:45.

South Shore Regional Communications Center – Eric Haskell reported that the funding provided by the four member towns (Cohasset, Hull, Norwell, and Hingham) is based on a formula of 50% determined by the proportion of a Town's population to the overall population of the four towns and 50% based on the Town's proportion of the total number of calls from the previous year.

Water Company Acquisition – Victor Baltera reported that the Selectmen had voted to open the Warrant to insert four Articles: one related to the proposed

acquisition, one related to the Selectmen acting as Water Commissioners, one related to the creation of an Enterprise Fund and one related to Transition costs.

*Warrant Article process update*

Chair Smallwood provided a statement concerning the principles governing Advisory Committee deliberations including neutrality, keeping an open mind, deliberating as a group, and only expressing public opinions after an AdCom vote.

*Advisory Committee Housekeeping Items*

As Town election season nears, Chair Smallwood reminded members that it is AdCom's practice to take a low profile in local elections. At its next meeting (2/7), AdCom will hear the four School-related Articles.

Matters not anticipated within 48 hours:

None

Adjourn – 10:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Curley, Secretary

List of Documents Distributed at this Meeting:

Agenda

Draft Minutes for Meeting of 1/29/19

Reserve Fund Transfer Request – South Shore Country Club

Warrant Articles O, R, S and W with proposed Comments and Recommendations

School Department presentation slides – Hingham Public Schools budget  
Overview for FY 20, February 5, 2019

Budget scorecard updated as through 1/29/19

AdCom approved on 2/12/2019