

## Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date: March 7, 2019**

**Place: Town Hall**

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

Chairman Smallwood called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

*Questions from the Public regarding items not on the Agenda – None*

*Warrant Article Hearing and Vote*

- D – Report of the Personnel Board – Action was deferred.

*Budget Deliberations*

Chairman Smallwood observed that the Five-Year Forecast's current estimated budget gap of just over \$700,000 is relatively modest in comparison with other years. In the last several years, the Town departments' conservative budgeting has resulted in about \$1 million in turnbacks each year, a small 1% variance on a budget of over \$100 million. The Committee then reviewed the the Town Administrator's additional requests for funding. After deliberation and discussion, the Committee approved the following additional municipal requests: Assessors - \$19,000 (net zero change as cost is shifting from expenses to salary); Information Technology - \$19,800; Police Department - \$33,577; Selectmen - \$13,000; Harbormaster \$11,726; Town Engineering - \$3,500; Reserve Fund - \$31,500. In addition, the Committee agreed that the Fire Department's \$32,000 additional request could be funded from FY 19 reserves and endorsed funding \$128,216 in FY 2020 capital requests (DPW & Town Hall) with FY 19 budget surpluses. The Committee recommended a total Article 6 budget of \$111,723,344.

Each of the Municipal, Education and Capital Budgets were moved for favorable action reflecting previous Advisory Committee liaisons' recommendations as adjusted by the evening's discussion of additional requests. If any member

desired further discussion and a separate vote, that budget line item would be held. Victor Baltera requested holds on the Education, Group Insurance, OPEB, Contributory Retirement, Workers Compensation, Unemployment and Medicare budgets while Julie Strehle held the Recreation budget.

All of the budgets except those listed below were approved by a vote of 14-0-0. The school department, group insurance, OPEB, contributory retirement, workers' compensation, unemployment and Medicare budgets were approved without discussion by a vote of 13-0-1 with Victor Baltera abstaining. The Recreation Commission budget was approved without discussion 13-0-1 with Julie Strehle abstaining.

#### *Liaison updates*

- Water Company Acquisition – Victor Baltera reported on the meeting of the Advisory Committee Subcommittee of the night before. The Selectmen will hold a public information presentation about the acquisition on 3/9 at Town Hall.

#### *Advisory Committee Housekeeping Items*

Many thanks were offered to Davalene Cooper and Nancy MacDonald for all of their efforts in the editing of the Warrant Articles.

*Matters not anticipated within 48 hours: None*

Adjourn – 9:35

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Curley, Secretary

List of Documents Distributed at this Meeting:

Agenda

Budget Scorecard with Town Administrator Recommendations

Five Year Forecast

Town Administrator Priority List

AdCom approved on 4/9/2019 by a vote of 11-0-0.