

**Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
5/31/2016**

In attendance: Committee Members Anderson, Baltera, Belyea, Coughlin, Hancock, Haskell, Kelley, Kutsch, MacKay, Pyles, Sharkansky, Smallwood, and Taylor and Town Accountant Nickerson.

Chairman Pyles called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

*Questions from the Public on Items Not on the Agenda*

Two representatives from Aquarion Water Company spoke briefly about the recent occurrence of discolored water. John Walsh, VP of Operations, and Ronit Goldstein, Manager of Operations & Communications, explained that temporary disturbances in the flow of water can stir up deposits in the pipes. A water main on South Pleasant Street was shut off due to a broken pipe to a home. As a result, water flowed backwards, and this reversal of flow kicked up sediments in the water supply to homes located north of this location. Aquarion checked for bacteria and found none in the samples taken. John recommended that residents call Aquarion if and when their water is discolored.

*Presentation by South Shore Country Club*

Tom Belyea introduced Jay McGrail, Director of the South Shore Country Club. Also attending from the SSCC Management Committee were Bill Friend and Paul Casey. Jay presented the SSCC Five-Year Business Plan and referred to the document included in AdCom members' folders. He gave an overview of operations and discussed the financial plan for revenue and expenses plus the capital plan. The number one driver in the finances is payroll. The net profit is tight, and it is difficult to predict emergencies. In addition, the capital needs are significant, and they change every year.

The SSCC has some big projects on the horizon. The club needs a new maintenance facility, but it is possible that the club may be able to use the former DPW building on Hersey Street for this purpose, and this would cost much less than a new building. The pool has structural issues and will require replacement in the next few years. Jay and the Management Committee are working on options, including the possibility of a year-round pool. The YMCA is now leasing the pool and running the operation on a seasonal basis.

Jay reported that April was a bad month financially, and the club currently has a deficit. He is looking for ways to increase revenue. The SSCC absorbs all of its costs / expenses.

*Approval of Minutes*

The minutes of the regular meeting on April 19, 2016 were approved as amended by a vote of 10-0-2. Victor Baltera and Craig MacKay abstained, as they were not in attendance at the 4/19 meeting.

The minutes of the regular meeting on April 25, 2016 were approved as amended by a vote of 10-0-2. Eric Haskell abstained, as he was not in attendance at the 4/25 meeting. Jim Sharkansky abstained, as he arrived at the 4/25 meeting after the votes were taken.

*Town Meeting Debrief*

The Warrant process moved more smoothly and quickly than last year. The Annual Town Meeting was a one-night event, and there was not much discussion on any topic. Tom Pyles did a good job of coordinating the AdCom hearings and votes with the Board of Selectmen hearings and votes. He allowed a week or more between the hearing and the vote on controversial topics. Looking ahead, Tom recommended that AdCom forward documents to Town Hall as they become ready and avoid sending documents in bulk. Lucy Hancock expressed an interest in rewriting the Warrant Style Guidelines and

eliminating inconsistencies. AdCom members thanked Lucy for her efforts in editing Warrant Articles / Comments this year.

### *Liaison Reports*

#### Water Company Acquisition Study and Update on Litigation

Jim Taylor provided an update on the Water Company litigation and referred to the documents in AdCom members' folders, including the summary provided by Kerry Ryan. Jim explained the chronology of events concerning the final judgment and notification to the public. The judge's decision occurred on Friday 4/22, but the electronic docket was not updated until late Monday or early Tuesday. Communication of court decisions is done via hardcopy, and Town counsel received notification in the U.S. mail on Tuesday 4/26. No Town officials knew about the judge's decision before Town Meeting. The date of the docket entry is not the date that the decision went up on the docket but instead reflects the date of the judge's decision.

Eric Haskell expressed concern about the lack of transparency regarding the Water Company Study. Public trust is important, and two-way communication is needed. Jim Sharkansky asked why counsel did not check the docket more often and why AdCom was not notified of the decision sooner, e.g., on Tuesday.

The Town has filed an appeal, and Aquarion has filed a cross-appeal. It could be months before the case is turned over to the appellate court. The appeal could take one or two years. Will the \$300K voted at Town Meeting be sufficient to cover the appeal costs? Jim Sharkansky suggested that any further requests for funds should be done at a public forum.

#### School Department

Linda Kutsch provided an update on two developments. The School Department has a new bus contract and will be leasing only the buses. Maintenance will be in-house. The buses all will be new, so maintenance should be minimal. In August, the School Department will take delivery of twenty buses and two spares. The contract is a five-year lease rather than a ten-year lease. The savings will be about \$170K per year, but the School Department will incur the \$50K cost of insuring the buses.

By combining funds from the FY 2017 operating budget, a \$15K kindergarten grant, and some of the FY 2016 operating surplus, the School Department will be able to purchase all the reading materials for the elementary schools in one year, rather than over two years.

Linda also noted that all school bargaining unit contracts are up for renewal this year. A lot of negotiations are expected, and the Town will need strong negotiators. Control of steps and lanes will be necessary in order to reduce costs.

Linda announced that there will be two fewer kindergarten sections in the fall, based on current registrations, and thus there will be two fewer kindergarten teachers. Kindergarten teachers are financed by tuition payments. In addition, there will be one fewer elementary teacher due to enrollment.

#### *Election of Officers for FY 2017*

Chairman Pyles explained the process for the election of officers. Voting was as follows:

##### Chairman

Tom Belyea nominated Jim Taylor. Jim accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. AdCom members elected Jim by a vote of 12-0-0.

##### Vice-Chairman

Jim Sharkansky nominated Lucy Hancock. Lucy accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. AdCom members elected Lucy by a vote of 12-0-0.

### Secretary

Linda Kutsch nominated Donna Smallwood. Donna accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. AdCom members elected Donna by a vote of 12-0-0.

### *Miscellaneous Items*

Tom Belyea recognized and praised Tom Pyles for his work on AdCom this year. AdCom members thanked Tom for his service.

AdCom members discussed the budget process for next year. It will be important to get ahead of the curve and set proper expectations about department budgets. We should start communicating with all departments this summer, and we should get input from townspeople. Dan Coughlin asked if level services funding is needed in all cases. We will have to be careful about assumptions.

Tom Pyles reminded people about the upcoming AdCom party on June 25.

The next AdCom meeting will occur on Monday 6/27. The main focus will be end-of-year reserve fund transfers.

*Matters Not Anticipated within 48 Hours: None*

### *Adjournment*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 PM by a vote of 12-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lucy N. Hancock  
Secretary

### List of Documents Distributed at this Meeting:

Revised Agenda for AdCom Meeting of 5/31/2016

Draft Minutes from 4/19/2016 AdCom Meeting

Draft Minutes from 4/25/2016 AdCom Meeting

South Shore Country Club Five-Year Business Plan

Various documents related to the Water Company litigation, including:

- Communication from Kerry Ryan regarding the timing of the final judgment
- Copy of the electronic docket entries related to the final judgment
- information dated 4/28/2016
- Memorandum of Decision on Final Judgment
- Town of Hingham's Motion to Supplement Record and Request for Hearing
- Aquarion's Motion to Conditionally Supplement the Record
- Aquarion's Request for Hearing 1/19/2016
- Aquarion's Request for Hearing 3/2/2016
- Aquarion's Motion for Entry of Final Judgment and for Clarification of the Court's November 20, 2015 Memorandum
- Town of Hingham's Motion for Entry of Final Judgment and Request for Hearing
- Press Release regarding Town Appeal of Water Company Purchase Price Decision
- Copy of email note from Eric Haskell requesting that Kerry Ryan be invited to the 5/31/2016 AdCom meeting