

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: February 14, 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 7:31 pm.

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

Warrant Article Hearing

- U – Plastic Bag Reduction and Encourage Reusable Bags By-law – Tom Belyea introduced this article and Andy Ayer, Chair of the Cleaner Greener Hingham Committee provided an overview. This By-law is based on similar By-laws adopted by numerous other communities. The goal of the By-law is to reduce the common use of plastic checkout bags and to encourage the use of reusable bags by consumers. If adopted, the By-law would ban stores from using plastic checkout bags and would require bags be a reusable bag, paper bag, recycled paper bag or compostable plastic bag as defined in the By-law. It is hoped that the by-law would send a message to the Massachusetts legislature to adopt a state-wide ban. The Board of Health would be the enforcement authority and could grant extensions of up to one year in the event of a demonstrated hardship. Ad Com members suggested clarifications to the language of the by-law.

Warrant Article Hearings and Votes

- T – South Shore Park Chapter 43D Priority Development Site – Eric Haskell introduced this Article and Emily Wentworth, Senior Planner/Zoning Administrator provided an overview. This Article seeks to correct and clarify certain errors and omissions in previous Articles to assure that the entire

South Shore Park is designated as a priority development site. Mr. Haskell provided a Comment and a favorable recommendation. The vote in favor of this Article was 13 -1 - 0. Libby Claypoole was recorded in opposition.

- H – Transfer from Meals Tax Stabilization Fund – Hearing and action was deferred.
- I – Disbursement of Electric Light Department Receipts -Ed Gaydos provided an overview of this perennial Article which, with the exception of a payment in lieu of taxes expected to be about \$500,000, appropriates the revenues of the Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant to the operations of the plant. Mr. Gaydos provided a Comment and a favorable recommendation. The vote in favor of the recommendation was 14-0-0.
- X – Municipal Waterways Improvements and Maintenance Fund – Libby Claypoole introduced this Article and Harbormaster Ken Carson provided an overview. This Article will establish a Municipal Waterways Improvements and Maintenance Fund which will make Hingham eligible to apply for State dredging grants. This Fund will receive 50% of boat excise taxes, all mooring permit fees and additional federal and state funds. The use of this Fund will be limited to maintenance, dredging, cleaning and improvement of harbors, inland waters and great ponds of the Town, public access thereto, the breakwaters, retaining walls, piers, wharves and moorings and associated law enforcement and fire prevention . Ms. Claypoole provided a Comment and a favorable recommendation. The vote in favor of the recommendation was 14-0-0.
- EE – Transfer of Harbor Revenues to Municipal Waterways – Ms. Claypoole introduced this Article and Harbormaster Carson provided an overview. This Article will transfer mooring permit fees of \$754,750 as of June 30,2018, projected funds of \$40,000 of FY19 parking license fees, projected FY19 mooring fees of \$300,000 and projected funds of \$35,000 for 50% FY19 boat excise taxes as well as the old Waterways Fund balance of \$371,408.35 to the new Municipal Waterways Improvements and Maintenance Fund. Ms. Claypoole provided a Comment and a favorable recommendation. The vote in favor of the recommendation was 14-0-0.

- Y – Dredging of Hingham Harbor – Ms. Claypoole introduced this Article and Harbormaster Carson provided an overview. This Article will appropriate \$1.5 million from the Municipal Waterways Improvements and Maintenance Fund from its predecessor’s funds and an amount not in excess of \$3.5 million to be raised by borrowing for the dredging of Hingham Harbor. Hingham is eligible to apply for a state grant of up to 50% of the total project cost of \$5 million. If the work is not accomplished at this time the expense of the project is expected to increase substantially. Ms. Claypoole provided a Comment and a favorable recommendation. The vote in favor of the recommendation was 14-0-0.

Liaison Updates

- *Library* – Eric Haskell reported that the Library Trustees voted 9-5 in favor of withdrawing the Warrant Article seeking approximately \$17 million in funds in order to secure a state grant of \$9 million for Library renovations. In expressing her disappointment at this outcome, Julie Strehle pointed to the Town’s need for long term facilities and capital planning.
- *Schools* – George Danis noted that an additional reduction of \$172,363 is reflected in the revised School budget proposal due to retirements, leaves, and changes in vocational school tuition, bringing the current requested budget increase to 5.31%

Advisory Committee Housekeeping Items

The need for long term planning especially with respect to the Town’s present capital assets and expected future capital needs was identified as a topic for future discussion by the Advisory Committee.

The next meeting will be 2/20.

Matters not anticipated within 48 hours: None

11. Adjourn – 9:37

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Curley, Secretary

List of Documents Distributed at this Meeting:

Agenda

Articles U,T,I,X,Y,EE

Cleaner Greener Hingham PowerPoint

Map of Chapter 43D Priority Development Site

AdCom approved on 2/20/2019