

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: February 25, 2021

Place: Remote Meeting via Zoom

In attendance: Committee Members Bob Curley, Julie Strehle, Andy McElaney, Evan Sheehan, Dave Anderson, Davalene Cooper, Kristin Dziergowski, Victor Baltera, Tina Sherwood, Libby Claypoole, Alan Macdonald, Brenda Black, Eryn Kelley, Nancy MacDonald, George Danis.

Absent: No one

1. ***Call meeting to order:*** Chair Curley called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and read the following statement:

This meeting is being held remotely as an alternate means of public access pursuant to an Order issued by the Governor of Massachusetts dated March 12, 2020 Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law. You are hereby advised that this meeting and all communications during this meeting may be recorded by the Town of Hingham in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. If any participant wishes to record this meeting, please notify the Chairman at the start of the meeting in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(f) so that the chair may inform all other participants of said recording.

2. ***Comments from the public on items not on the agenda:*** None

3. ***Repurpose Capital funds for purchase of hybrid police cruisers:***

AdCom member Libby Claypoole and Police Chief Jones presented and recommended this request. The FY 21 Capital Outlay budget includes \$300,000 for the Police Department to purchase 7 new vehicles as part of their standard rotation. The new purchase agreement puts the cost at \$313,131 for these vehicles and the Department would like to repurpose FY 21 Capital of \$13,131 from the evidence room renovation to cover the cost differential. Additionally, the Department plans to purchase hybrid vehicles instead of gas-powered ones. The hybrids cost a total of \$24,500 more to purchase and outfit but each vehicle will deliver an estimated \$4,381 in fuel savings per year which makes this purchase an environmental and cost-efficient option. Additionally, these vehicles are expected to have a useful life of 10 years compared to 7 for the current ones.

The Department would like to repurpose \$24,000 from the defibrillator replacement proposal and \$500 from the evidence room renovation to cover the hybrid cost differential.

The AdCom voted 13-0-1 in favor of the recommendation (Eryn Kelley abstained as she was absent during the discussion).

4. Warrant Articles hearings and potential votes:

- a. Article T – Five-Year School Bus Lease: The AdCom, which had previously held a hearing on the Article, voted 14-0-0 in favor of this Article;
- b. Article U – Plymouth River School Windows Authorization to Borrow: The AdCom agreed to delay voting on this Article until the Board of Selectmen (BOS) vote. The BOS delayed voting this Article pending more current cost estimates;
- c. Article V – 2017 School Building Committee Additional Charge: The AdCom, which had previously held a hearing on the Article previously, voted 14-0-0 in favor of this Article;
- d. Article I – Building Department Revolving Fund: Brenda Black presented and recommended this Article which seeks to limit the amount of money that can be used from this Fund during FY 22 to \$350,000. The Fund is derived from permit fees and is used to pay expenses related to the permitting process. AdCom members discussed the possibility of using additional funds from this account and determined that there were no additional allowable expenses. The AdCom voted 14-0-0 in favor of this Article;
- e. Article J – Department of Elder Services Revolving Fund: Julie Strehle presented and recommended this Article which seeks to limit the amount of money that can be spent from this Fund during FY 22 to \$80,000. The Fund is credited with all fees and charges received for Senior Center programs and is used to pay related expenses. The AdCom voted 14-0-0 in favor of the Article;
- f. Article W: Waterways Fund Transfer: Libby Claypoole and Harbormaster Ken Corson presented this Article which seeks to transfer \$85,000 in harbor-generated revenue to the Municipal Waterways Improvement and Maintenance Fund. This Fund is used to help cover the cost of dredging the harbor. After discussion the AdCom elected to delay voting on this Article pending receipt of an updated motion;
- g. Article O: Climate Action Planning Study Funds – Hearing was deferred to a later date;
- h. Article P: Climate Action Planning Committee Article – Hearing was deferred to a later date;
- i. Article Y: HMLP Proposed Transmission and Substation Project – Hearing was deferred to a later date;

- j.* Article X: Route 3A/Rotary/Summer Street Corridor Roadway Improvements: Tina Sherwood and George Danis presented the Article. Route 3A task force Chair Judy Sneath, and task force members Town Engineer J.R. Frey and Alan Perrault, presented the Article which seeks \$200,000 to finalize engineering and design specifications for the proposed Route 3A project. This project will address significant pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle safety issues along the corridor from Martins Cove Lane to the intersection at the Hingham Lobster Pound. The Town is responsible for funding the design of the improvements which includes updating plans based on concerns expressed by abutters and State requirements. This additional funding is in response to changes based on the 2019 submission of plans and is expected to finalize plans for the project. The Town provided \$400,000 in funding at the 2015 Annual Town Meeting and another \$195,000 at the 2019 Annual Town Meeting in response to required design changes. The State will pay virtually all of the cost of construction which is projected to be \$15.3 million dollars while the Town's cost will be approximately \$795,000 or 5.4%. The AdCom voted 14-0-0 in favor of this Article.

5. Discussion of Forecast, Financial Policy, Fund Balance, and Override:

AdCom members were given a demonstration by member Dave Anderson on a new Forecast Sensitivity Tool designed to forecast the financial impact to the Town budget under various revenue and spending scenarios. Chair Curley noted that another tool is currently in development that will estimate the tax impact on an average homeowner from various borrowing options. Chair Curley stated that he believed the AdCom members would be able to see a demonstration of this tool at our March 2nd meeting.

6. Warrant Article update:

Chair Curley noted that there has been little movement on the Harbor Wharves Article (Article Z) and the reading of deceased former Town volunteers (Article BB) since our last update and their status remains uncertain at this time.

7. Liaison reports: None

8. Discussion of Advisory Committee housekeeping items:

- a.* Meeting times: Chair Curley stated that the AdCom would next meet on March 2, March 4, and March 9;
- b.* Policies and Procedure Review: Davalene Cooper stated that the team reviewing AdCom Policies and Procedures hoped to be able to present their findings at the March 9 meeting;
- c.* Town Meeting and related deadlines: Chair Curley noted that current plans still include having the Annual Town Meeting on May 8, 2021 with rain dates of May 15th and 16th. The Town election, pending approval from the State, is scheduled for June 26, 2021.

9. ***Matters not anticipated within 48 hours of meeting:*** None

10. ***Adjourn:*** Motion to adjourn at 10:24 pm by roll call vote of 14-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

George Danis, Secretary

List of Documents Distributed for this Meeting:

- Agenda
- Warrant Articles

Approved on March 4, 2021 by roll call vote of 14-0-0