

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: February 28, 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 7:30 pm.

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

Budget Hearings

- Capital Outlay – Libby Claypoole introduced this budget and Eric Valentine, Chair of the Capital Outlay Committee, provided an overview. The Capital Outlay Committee approved a budget of \$4,585,911. Of this amount, \$2,407,751 would be funded from the tax levy, meeting the target established by the Town Administrator. The other sources of funding were available reserves of \$350,000, user rates/charges of \$363,000 and borrowing of \$1,465,160. The major items addressed were vehicle replacements in the Police, Fire, and Department of Public Works, extraordinary maintenance for the Foster Elementary School, and gymnasium windows at the High School. It was noted that the Library may need capital expenditures in FY21 as a result of the withdrawal of its Warrant Article related to major renovations and additions.
- Education – Dave Anderson introduced this budget. School Superintendent Dorothy Galo and John Ferris, Director of Business and Support Services, as well as members of the School Committee were present to answer questions. The budget presented by the School Committee as of 2/25/19 was \$54,699,057 which represented an increase over the FY19 budget of \$2,692,360 or 5.18%. Dave Anderson described the analysis of the Advisory Committee Education Subcommittee (ACES) to the effect that the average year-over-year growth in the School budget has been just shy of 4.45% for FY2015-2019. The current ACES recommendation is an increase based on

the historical growth figure, namely,(\$2,313,129) to a total budget of \$54,319,826 which is subject to potential further reduction if needed to achieve a balanced budget. Personnel costs amount to 84% of the budget and meeting contractually agreed pay increases alone would require a budget increase of 3.22%.

Warrant Article Hearings and Votes

- AAA – Amend Zoning By-law re: Section I-C Enforcement – Eryn Kelley introduced this Article. Mary Savage-Dunham, Director of Planning, and Gordon Carr, Chair of the Planning Board, provided an overview. This Article increases the amount of the penalty which the Building Commissioner may impose for violations of the Zoning By-law from the current flat amount of \$100 for each day of violation to \$100 for the first offense, \$200 for the second offense and \$300 for the third and each subsequent offense. This change brings Hingham’s penalties into line with surrounding communities. Ms. Kelley provided a Comment and a favorable recommendation. The vote in favor of the recommendation was 14-0-0.
- BBB – Amend Zoning By-law re: Retail Sale of Alcoholic Beverages. Eric Haskell introduced this article and provided an overview which was supported by Ms. Savage-Dunham and Mr. Carr. This Article establishes a new use category for retail sale of alcohol (currently alcohol sales fall within the general retail use category.). It does not change the districts in which retail alcohol sales are allowed and does not affect the operation of existing package stores. This Article requires either a new package store or an existing store which seeks to expand its operations to seek and obtain an appropriate special permit from the Planning Board relative to its off-street parking. Mr. Haskell provided a Comment and a favorable recommendation. The vote in favor of the recommendation was 14-0-0.
- DDD – Amend Zoning By-law re: Section III-G Downtown Hingham Overlay District – Ms. Kelley introduced this Article and Ms. Savage-Dunham and Mr. Carr provided an overview. This Article would require advisory design review by the Historical Districts Commission to the Planning Board concerning any development in the Downtown Hingham Overlay

District(DHOD) which is not in an Historic District. This Article would also regulate Roof Decks in the DHOD in terms of access, visibility, structures, light and sound. Ms. Kelley provided a Comment and a favorable recommendation. The vote in favor of the recommendation was 14-0-0.

- EEE – Amend Zoning BY-law re: Sections I and IV – Andy McElaney introduced this Article and provided an overview. The majority of the amendments are to bring the Town into compliance with the Town’s Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit (MS4 Permit). In addition, the Article permits the Planning Board to adopt a more expeditious process for certain site plan review applications and makes some minor edits to clarify existing provisions. Mr. McElaney provided a Comment and a favorable recommendation. The vote in favor of the recommendation was 14-0-0.
- GG – Street Acceptance-Portion of Martins Lane – Evan Sheehan introduced this Article and provided an overview. This Article would authorize the Town to accept a 40 square foot parcel of land on Martins Lane in order to permit the repair of the sea wall along its entire length. Mr. Sheehan provided a Comment and a favorable recommendation. The vote in favor of the recommendation was 14-0-0.
- D – Report of the Personnel Board – This hearing was deferred.

Liaison updates

- Water Company Acquisition – Victor Baltera reported on the meeting of the AdCom Subcommittee the night before at which representatives of Aquarion responded to questions from the Subcommittee members about a report and related materials that had been submitted by Aquarion. Representatives of the Town then responded to questions of the Subcommittee concerning the Aquarion discussion.

Advisory Committee Housekeeping Items

The next regular meetings of the Advisory Committee will be on 3/5 and 3/7.

Matters not anticipated within 48 hours: None

11. Adjourn – 9:42

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Curley, Secretary

List of Documents Distributed at this Meeting:

Agenda

Five Year Capital Plan

Worksheet re: School budget

Articles AAA, BBB, DDD, EEE, & GG

Map of Downtown Overlay District

AdCom approved on 3/5/2019