

## Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date – March 10, 2022

Remote Meeting via Zoom

**In Attendance:** J. Strehle, G. Danis, N. MacDonald, D. Anderson, B. Black, D. Cooper, R. Curley, K. Dziergowski, C. Kirk, A. Macdonald, A. McElaney, S. Melia, E. Sheehan, T. Sherwood, Town Accountant S. Nickerson.

**Absent:** M. Goulet

### 1. Call Meeting to Order

At 7:02pm Chair Strehle called the meeting to order 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 Regarding Items Not on the Agenda

None

### 3. Review and Approval of Minutes from March 1 and March 3, 2022

Meeting minutes for March 1, 2022, were approved by roll call vote, 11-0

Meeting minutes for March 3, 2022, were approved by roll call vote, 10-0

### 4. Warrant Article Hearings and Potential Votes

#### **Article AAA: Amend Zoning By-law: Gender Neutral and other Term Revisions**

AdCom heard and approved this Article on March 3, 2021. Mr. McElaney noted that subsequently the Planning Board suggested a change to the language of the Recommended Motion so as to conform the language to that of the Gender Neutral Article previously adopted. AdCom approved the proposed language change by roll call vote, 11-0.

#### **Article BBB: Amend Zoning By-law: Requirements for Accessory Uses**

Ms. Melia provided an overview of this Article. She noted that its purpose is to set forth a non-exclusive list of factors that may be considered by the Zoning Board of Appeals when assessing the potential for impairment of the neighborhood of an accessory use. The recommended motion was approved by roll call vote, 11-0.

#### **Article GG: Real Estate Transfer Fee**

No discussion, as the Select Board withdrew the Article from the Warrant.

#### **Article E: Salaries of Town Officers**

Mr. Curley presented this Article and provided an overview. There was a discussion of the Comment. The recommended motion was approved by roll call vote, 12-0.

#### **Article D: Personnel Board**

Ms. Dziergowski presented this Article and provided an overview. She noted that the Article references the Personnel Board Report, which will be included in the Warrant. There was general discussion regarding the Article and comment. The recommended motion was approved by roll call vote, 12-0.

*Approved March 15, 2022*

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### 5. **FY23 Budget Deliberations**

Mr. Danis presented this Article. Chair Strehle provided an overview of the current forecast and budget situation. ACES Chair Dave Anderson summarized ACES discussion and vote. He noted that the proposed FY23 budget includes the 32 positions added for FY22, for which no recurring revenue sources have been identified. ACES believes the additional requests put forward by the School Committee for FY23, including a Fine Arts Director, additional counselors at the elementary level, and administrative support staff, are certainly important. However, In light of this, ACES believes it would not be prudent to add the additional positions proposed for FY23 until the Town has had a chance to ratify by an override the 32 additional positions added in FY22. Ultimately, ACES unanimously voted to recommend a school budget of \$61,826,503. ACES member Al Macdonald noted that neither ACES nor AdCom votes for or against any particular position in the schools. A robust discussion followed regarding the school and municipal budgets, the constraints of the financial policy, and the need for an override. There was significant conversation regarding the proposed Sustainability Coordinator, available grant monies, and the bill submitted by Representative Joan Meschino to earmark funds specifically for the joint Hingham and Cohasset Sustainability Coordinator position. There was additional conversation regarding the mechanics of an override. There was considerable citizen input in support of the Sustainability Coordinator position. School Committee Vice Chair Michelle Ayer commented on the needs of the schools and the breadth of their responsibilities. Chair Strehle noted that she will try to get additional information regarding grants and the bill submitted by Representative Meschino.

### 6. **Warrant Article Potential Vote:**

#### **Article F: Budgets**

A vote on Article F was deferred.

### 7. **Warrant Process Update**

Chair Strehle asked all AdCom members to forward all completed Articles to the respective editor.

### 8. **Discussion of Advisory Committee Housekeeping Items**

Chair Strehle noted:

- AdCom meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup> – is a combined meeting with the Select Board to hear Articles CCC, DDD; AdCom will then reconvene in its own meeting to vote CCC and F
- Town Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 30th (outdoor)
- Rain Date 1 is scheduled for Sunday, May 1st (outdoor)
- Rain Date 2 is scheduled for Monday, May 9th (indoor)

### 9. **Matters not anticipated within 48 hours of meeting**

None.

### 10. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by roll call vote at 13-0

*Approved March 15, 2022*

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**Documents Distributed for this Meeting**

- Agenda
- Draft meeting minutes for February 15. February 17
- Updated forecast
- Draft Articles HH, CC, EE, GG
- Citizen communications

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy MacDonald  
Advisory Committee Secretary

*Approved March 15, 2022*