Hingham Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 19th, 2026, at 7:00 PM
Town Hall, 210 Central Street, Third Floor, South Meeting Room

In Attendance: Carol Tully, Chair, Kevin Freytag, Vice Chair, Ted Ciolkosz, Secretary, Brenda Black, Ben Burnham, Tina Sherwood, Jerry Seelen, Brian Stack, David Leiphart, Michael Herde, Mary Power, Alan Macdonald, John Germain, Steven Pohl

Absent: Elaine Cusker

1. The Chair called the meeting to order and read the following statement. This meeting is being held remotely/or in person as an alternate means of public access pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025 and all other applicable laws temporarily amending 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 chair 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. Warrant Articles - FF Transfer for Health Care Subsidy with liaison Steven Pohl and Lynn Carroll, Personnel Board Member. This article would authorize the transfer $1,400,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance for two purposes, first, to provide a one-time subsidy to town employees currently using the Town's health insurance which would in effect increase the Town's share of employee health insurance premiums from 50% to 60% for Fiscal Year 2027 only (at a cost of about 1.3mm) and, second, to fund a study regarding the Town's options for funding health insurance premiums in future fiscal years (at a cost of up to 100k). Steven presented two options for the article commentary. The first would approve the article as submitted. If the first option is voted down, the second option, would be to appropriate and transfer $100,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance to be expended under the direction of the Personnel Board for expenses, including those of a consultant(s), for a study to research how best to improve the current health insurance offering for Town employees (analyzing comparable towns, assessing costs, and exploring different sharing models, implementation, etc.). All AdCom members agreed the Town should explore a better health insurance offering but were divided (the majority against) a one-time subsidy being used as Town offered health insurance should be a budgeted and planned expense.

   Article K, Transfer to the Reserve Fund. It was recommended the Advisory Committee make their recommendation at ATM. Unanimously approved.

   Article Q, Public Library Chiller presented by liaison Dave Leiphart. Article requests $1,485,540 for replacement of the Hingham Public Library Chiller (and fan coil units). This is 18% lower than the original estimate due to the original contingency figure being reduced to 5%. Motion was made to recommend. Unanimously approved.

   Article V, Sale of 86 Central Street – Discussion revolved around how to specify and restrict affordable housing, especially for seniors and disabled persons, using legal tools should property be sold. Vote to be held next week.

Article F, Budgets – Discussion centered on concerns about transparency, fiduciary duties, and the process of funding school and town expenses. Vote scheduled for 3/24.

3. Liaison Updates – Katie Dugan, Assistant Town Administrator for Finance, advised AdCom the 5 Yr. Forecast had been updated with final Enterprise Fund figures having been received, Capital Outlay Committee recommendations having been made, and confirmation that Town Health Insurance premiums only increased by 7.1% (had earlier budgeted using 12% as a placeholder) resulting in the earlier projected 239k shortfall to be zeroed out for the FY27 budget.

4. Housekeeping – HCAL, 86 Central, Healthcare Subsidy, Noise Petition to be voted next week.

5. Comments from the public on items not on the agenda – Grace Rizzotto-Griffiths of 9 Irving Street addressed AdCom about the location of the HCAL.

6. Motion to Adjourn – Unanimously approved, with the exception of Alan MacDonald who had to leave the meeting early and Elaine Cusker (absent this meeting).

Respectfully submitted by Theodore D. Ciolkosz, Jr., Secretary