

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date – April 28, 2022

Remote Meeting via Zoom

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

Absent: D. Anderson, M. Goulet, T. Sherwood

1. Call Meeting to Order in the Moderator’s Meeting to discuss procedures and logistics for the April 30, 2022, Annual Town Meeting

At 7:00pm Town Moderator Michael Puzo 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.”

AdCom Chair Strehle called the Advisory Committee to order at 7:01pm and adopted the statement above.

Moderator Puzo discussed the logistics and procedures for Annual Town Meeting 2022.

2. At the conclusion of the Moderator’s Meeting, the Advisory Committee was recessed and resumed its regular meeting

Chair Strehle reconvened the meeting at 7:46.

3. Comments from the Public Regarding Items Not on the Agenda

None

4. Review and Approval of Minutes from April 12, 2022

Meeting minutes from April 12, 2022, were approved by roll call vote, 9-0.

5. Discussion and vote on Article 11, Transfer Funds to the Reserve Fund

Mr. Curley noted that the fund balance transfer is an annual vote at the end of the fiscal year to cover previous year’s unexpected expenditures. He noted that almost \$1MM of Fund Balance is being requested, the two largest requests for legal expenses and snow and ice removal. He noted that these budgets are traditionally underfunded and represent structural deficits. Town Accountant Sue Nickerson noted that snow and ice removal is allowed by state statute to run at a deficit and that the Town has been adding additional monies to the legal budget in recent years. Mr. McElaney asked about the workers comp amount; Ms. Nickerson noted that this year saw higher than normal workers comp claims. The committee voted to recommend the transfer of \$950,820 from Fund Balance to meet the needs as specified by the Town Accountant, 9-0.

6. Town Meeting Preparation

The Committee discussed Town Meeting procedures

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7. Discussion of Advisory Committee Housekeeping Items

Chair Stehle provided upcoming meeting information:

- May 24th - AdCom Meeting
- Early June (date TBD) - AdCom Meeting, Joint meeting with the Select Board, School Committee, and Personnel Board. As salary negotiations will be discussed, this meeting will be held in Executive Session.

8. Matters not anticipated within 48 hours of meeting

Ms. Black gave an update on the Climate Action Planning Committee.

Ms. Cooper noted that the new ambulance has been delivered to the Fire Department.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by roll call vote at 8:34, 10-0.

Documents Distributed for this Meeting

- Agenda
- Anticipated Reserve Fund Transfers
- Legal Expense Breakdown

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy MacDonald
Advisory Committee Secretary

Approved May 24, 2022