

TOWN OF PEMBROKE
APPROVED
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
22 OCTOBER 2018

Stephen Curley, Chairperson opened the meeting of the Advisory Committee in Pembroke Town Hall at 7:00PM on 22 October 2018. Also present were Linda Peterson, Stephen Walsh, Elizabeth Monks, Maria Karas and Matthew Norton

Guests: Rick Wall, Police Chief

Stephen Curley noted the committee failed to approve the meeting minutes of October 1 and October 15, 2018.

Upon motion moved by Stephen Walsh and 2nd by Matthew Norton the meeting minutes of **October 1, 2018** was

VOTED¹: To accept the meeting minutes of October 1, 2018, Linda Peterson, Elizabeth Monks supported the motion. Maria Karas abstained.

Upon motion moved by Linda Peterson and 2nd by Matthew Norton the meeting minutes of **October 15, 2018** as amended to change the word "Historical Commission" to Historical Society" on page 3 and insert correct wording for CPC Article 16 Recommendation G (the wording in the minutes was Recommendation F) was

VOTED²: To accept the meeting minutes of October 15, 2018 as amended above, Stephen Walsh and Maria Karas supported the motion. Elizabeth Monks abstained.

The committee reviewed and discussed correspondence received as followed:

- Advisory Financial monthly report for September 2018
- Policies & Procedures handbook for appointed committees distributed by the Board of Selectmen's office

Stephen Curley said the committee must vote on the following Special Town Meeting Articles tonight; 13, 14, 17 and 4. The committee discussed how Articles 13 & 14 for the Police Department will impact the budget leaving an \$800,000 deficit to start the year. The committee could vote it all and when spring comes lay everyone off. It's stupid and asinine to take the money for Article 13 & 14 out of Free Cash. We need to find a sustainable way of doing things. In 10 years of sustainable growth; this will impact a lot of everything else. Stephen Walsh said looking at what the Police Chief needs and asking Advisory to solve the problem. He said he is in favor of voting for the Police Chief.

Linda asked Rick Wall how he was going to handle it. The Chief said he is not a financial expert and has played by the rules. This is a crisis and he is standing up for what he needs and did not appreciate reference of being "asinine". He needs support to provide a safe town. Matt Norton asked if the Chief is expecting OT to increase. The Chief said he has to pay the salaries and his request for two more officers at \$77,000 per year does include benefits. Maria Karas asked if the crime rate has changed. Chief Wall said no – the respect towards the police has changed. Linda asked if the Chief could do without the line items he requested in Article 4. The Chief said the \$13,000 for the cruiser is needed to add to the \$37,000 that was approved at the prior town meeting as it's not enough to cover the cost of the new cruiser. He currently has two spare cars; a 2013 & 2014. They only last three years. He needs the additional staff. He could get by another year with the Tasers but needs the ammunition and cruiser. He would like to have the narcotic hand held device but could wait. Stephen Walsh said that because the Police Station is located in a "historic district" he may qualify for CPC funding to replace the Police Department door.

¹⁻⁶ The Chairperson did not vote on these motion.

Maria said residents want to feel safe and it shouldn't be the Chief's problem; nobody wants to compromise. The Chief referred to the officers who lost their lives in the line of duty in Weymouth and Falmouth during routine calls. He said we should have done this a while ago. He told the committee he is scheduled to meet with Police Chiefs in Grafton tomorrow to discuss officers killed in the line of duty.

The committee thanked Chief Wall for coming.

- Maria Karas said she supports the Police Chief and Public Safety. Stephen Curley said what Pembroke is spending is in line with other towns. It's not a spending issue; it's based on fear. He said looking at statistics, below average. Four officers and two shifts, works 8 hours x 5 days, they receive sick, vacation and OT. This all will continue; we will not be able to notice changes in OT. It's a net increase to shift. All officers are required to requalify gun range every year. He could rotate training every 3-4 years but down the road they still need to attend refresher training. The primary budget lies with Michael Buckley, Town Accountant; he didn't want to say no to Department Heads.
- The Town Manager Article has been submitted to the House of Representatives and in it's in the 3rd reading. Stephen Walsh said it passed and is now off to the Senate. Stephen Curley asked Stephen Walsh to let John Brown, member of the Board of Selectmen know as it's with Senator, Vinney DeMacedo now.
- Stephen Curley said the biggest loser will be the schools as enrollment is down 5%, losing 100 kids at the high school this year. Enrollment has decreased from 1300 to 900. We spend \$8,694,000 for Health Insurance; if we increase employee share to 50% we would pick up \$2,500,000. We could support plenty of police officers, fire fighters and also support the schools. We should at least be at 50% employee share for new hires.
- Matt Norton said he was confused with Advisory's role; compromises from others? Stephen Curley said he spoke with Deborah Wall, Library Director who said her priority would be updating the fire alarm system. Her request for new carpet and replacement of the bubbler can wait another year.
- Stephen Curley recommended sending a letter to the Board of Selectmen asking for a joint meeting to set up cooperative effort to review next year's budget to finance personnel we've added so we can be pro-active. Also to get to Michael Buckley, Town Accountant and Ed Thorne, Town Administrator before they do the budget.

Article 13 – To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to be used for the purpose of funding overtime for Police Department shifts strength.

Upon motion moved by Stephen Walsh and 2nd by Matthew Norton following the discussion it was

VOTED³: Favorable Action for Article 13, Linda Peterson and Maria Karas supported the motion. Elizabeth Monks abstained.

Article 14 – To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to be used for the purpose of hiring two (2) full-time Police Officers.

Upon motion moved by Stephen Walsh and 2nd by Matthew Norton following the discussion it was

VOTED⁴: Favorable Action for Article 14, Linda Peterson and Maria Karas supported the motion. Elizabeth Monks abstained.

Article 4 – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds and/or authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow, a sum or sums of money, pursuant to G.L. c. 44 §§7 or 8 or any other enabling authority to be expended for capital projects and/or equipment in accordance with the following capital budget schedule which is incorporated by reference herein, further, than any premium received by the town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with G.L. c.44 §20, thereby reducing

¹⁻⁶ The Chairperson did not vote on these motion.

by a like amount the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs, or take any other action relative thereto.

Upon motion moved by Matthew Norton and 2nd by Linda Peterson following the discussion it was

VOTED⁵: Town Meeting Floor for Article 4, Stephen Walsh, Elizabeth Monks and Maria Karas supported the motion.

Article 17 – To see if the Town will vote to amend the general bylaws by adopting a bylaw entitled “Reduction of Single-Use Plastic Bags,” the full text of which is printed in Appendix A of this warrant, or takes any other action relative thereto.

Upon motion moved by Stephen Walsh and 2nd by Matthew Norton following the discussion it was

VOTED⁶: Town Meeting Floor for Article 17, Linda Peterson, Maria Karas and Elizabeth Monks supported the motion.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at 6:30PM at the Pembroke High School. The Special Town Meeting to follow at 7:00PM.

Advisory adjourned at 8:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Peterson, Clerk

¹⁻⁶ The Chairperson did not vote on these motion.