

TOWN OF PEMBROKE
APPROVED
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
29 APRIL 2019

Stephen Curley, Chairperson opened the meeting of the Advisory Committee in Pembroke Town Hall at 7:00PM on 29 April 2019. Also present were Linda Peterson, Stephen Walsh, Kelly Seifert, Matthew Norton and Maria Karas

Absent: Elizabeth Monks

Guests: Erin Obey, School Superintendent, Patrick Chilcott, School Committee Chairperson and Michael Topeano, School Committee member

Tonight's meeting is being recorded by PAC-TV

The committee reviewed and discussed the email responses received from Police Chief Rick Wall, Fire Chief Michael Hill and Water Commissioner Jason Federico regarding property purchase impact if town doesn't purchase Pembroke Golf Course.

Upon motion moved by Linda Peterson and 2nd by Kelly Seifert the meeting minutes of April 22, 2019 was

VOTED¹: To accept the meeting minutes of April 22, 2019. Stephen Walsh and Matthew Norton supported the motion. Maria Karas abstained.

Stephen Curley welcomed Erin, Patrick and Michael.

- Erin distributed an overview of the school budget. She said the student profile looks very different with an increase in social and health wellness. We now have full time kindergarten for all. Stephen Curley asked if there are students that English is there second language. Erin said we have students that speak 23 different languages. They have added a third ELS teacher due to the case load. Patrick said all school departments come to them to discuss their budgets and they hear that more social workers are needed. There is an increase in anxiety among students. The school did fund one social worker in this budget.
- Patrick referred to page 5 of the handout outlining the historical picture of funding received from Chapter 70; out of the past 11 years all but 3 are below 1.0%. They can't fund their budget from local government; now relying on new sources of revenue. For the last three years they have asked State Representatives Culter and deMacedo to include funding transportation for special education; circuit breaker is very expensive. They have also asked for reimbursement for out of district student transportation. Looking for the same reimbursement as regional school districts receive.
- Linda asked what percent of students participate in performing arts. Erin said about 50% in high school and 60% participate in some sort of sports. Maria asked if they would reduce the cost to students in need. Mike Tropeau said they have found people who need it won't ask. The school works closely with the local food banks that provide food backpacks for students. These backpacks go home on Friday. There are more families in need than we realize. Education has changed; the school; we are a lot more involved with family life and prepare kids as they leave, i.e. college, military, vocation, etc. They have approximately 82% of graduates attending a two or four year school. No way to track the completion of college as its self-reporting.
- Patrick referred to page 6 of the handout; there are no adds to the program today. Rollover to next year; 1.6M deficient. They will start offering advertising around the track and field; hoping to generate approximately \$25,000. There will be a reduction of 6.2 positions; \$564,000.
- Matt Norton asked if they have a 3-5 year plan for capital projects. Erin said the big one is HVAC pieces. They are very expensive as the technology has changed but they are a more efficient system. She also wants to improve the traffic pattern. Linda asked what time school starts. Erin said they are using a 3 tiered bus pattern. Stephen Walsh asked about the \$250,000 request for technology. Erin said they will switch to a lease purchase at a cost of \$75,000 over three years. Stephen Walsh said capital budget should be 1% of budget and gradually increase to 5%. Patrick asked where is it coming from and how are we going to fund it. Linda said when we pay something

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

off that money should go into the capital budget. Stephen Walsh asked if the school has considered solar. Erin said not recently but would look into it again. Stephen Curley asked about the special needs student cost this year of \$250,000 for one student who recently moved in. The school has asked State Reps Cutler and deMacedo for equalization of that expense. This is one of the costs that are mandated by the state. Stephen Walsh asked if they have asked the State Reps for help with technology or safety. Erin said they have applied for security grants. They have one Resource Officer for the high school and middle school and one between the elementary schools. They have cameras in the schools with at 10 day span. She can check the cameras from her phone.

- One of the things they are struggling with is students “vaping”; it’s everywhere. They do have devices you can install in the bathrooms but it interferes with the wireless. Other school districts are testing it.

The committee thanked Erin, Patrick and Michael for coming

The committee reviewed and discussed the remaining Annual and Special Town Meeting Articles they need to vote:

Article 6 - Capital Budget – the committee did not receive their questions answered from Ed Thorne, interim Town Manager.

Upon motion moved by Linda Peterson and 2nd by Matthew Norton for Article 6 - Capital Budget as

VOTED²: Town Meeting Floor for Article 6 - Capital Budget. Kelly Seifert, Stephen Walsh and Maria Karas supported the motion.

Article 14 – Land Conveyance to Conservation Commission – Advisory is still waiting for the Map-Parcels of land from Ed Thorne. They agreed to send a follow-up email to Ed.

Zoning Articles 18, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 – the committee agreed to vote these zoning articles as one vote.

Upon motion moved by Stephen Walsh and 2nd by Matthew Norton for Zoning Articles 18, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 as

VOTED³: Favorable Action for Zoning Articles 18, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32. Linda Peterson, Kelly Seifert and Maria Karas supported the motion.

Upon motion moved by Maria Karas and 2nd by Kelly Seifert for Zoning Article 23 – Amend Business District B as

VOTED⁴: Unfavorable Action for Zoning Article 23 – Amend Business District B. Linda Peterson, Stephen Walsh and Matthew Norton did NOT support the motion. **Motion failed**

Second Vote:

Upon motion moved by Stephen Walsh and 2nd by Matthew Norton for Zoning Article 23 – Amend Business District B as

VOTED⁵: Town Meeting Floor for Zoning Article 23 – Amend Business District B. Linda Peterson, Maria Karas and Kelly Seifert supported the motion.

Article 35 – Citizen’s Petition Article to fund SSCAC at \$5,000

Upon motion moved by Matthew Norton and 2nd by Stephen Walsh for Article 35 – Citizen’s Petition Article to fund SSCAC at \$5,000 as

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

VOTED⁶: Town Meeting Floor for Article 35 – Citizen’s Petition Article to fund SSCAC at \$5,000.
Linda Peterson, Maria Karas and Kelly Seifert supported the motion.

The next Advisory meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 6, 2019 at 7:00PM at the Pembroke Public Library for Advisory’s Financial Presentation to residents.

Advisory adjourned at 9:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Peterson, Clerk

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