

TOWN OF PEMBROKE
APPROVED
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
06 MAY 2019

Stephen Curley, Chairperson opened the meeting of the Advisory Committee in Pembroke Public Library at 7:00PM on 6 May 2019. Also present were Stephen Walsh, Kelly Seifert, and Maria Karas

Absent: Elizabeth Monks, Linda Peterson and Matthew Norton

Guests: Pembroke residents

Tonight's meeting is being recorded by PAC-TV

This meeting is Advisory's 3rd Annual Financial Presentation to Pembroke Residents.

Stephen Curley said he will deliver a short presentation and then entertain questions.

- Revenue – State Aid from 2009 at 33% to 2020 at 25%; taxes 64% in 2020 compared to 59% in 2009. State aid has increased 6.96%. Other available funds come from the meal tax and solar; increase of 560.89%. State aid is going down; steady decrease.
- Factors - relative to surrounding towns, Pembroke's state revenue is 847 per capita; the average is 591 per capita. Brockton is 2082 per capita; state aid generally going to cities.
- Debt has increased from 2009 by 212.73%; we need to control. The Capital Plan is one tool being utilized to get under control.
- Benefits and Insurance increased 1.5% this year but the average is 6.5%/\$500,000 a year.
- Mandatory funds – the big driver is Charter Schools.
- How we spend funds for Police and Fire; Pembroke is at the median. General Government is at 3%. Education is 52.8% of the budget. We are low on Public Works; this is being addressed. Our fixed cost is healthcare. The Total Expenditures of \$3,387.58 is in line with the median per capital spending.
- Snow & Ice expense is running 14-15% higher than most towns. We're back in line, \$5,000 square mile versus Hanson at \$8,000 per square mile.
- Stabilization Fund is \$1,386,348; trying to grow slowly.
- Unemployment is at 7.3% down 2.6%.
- Changes this year – Town Building Maintenance - custodian salaries and general expenses are now combined. DPW Pavement Maintenance line item is zeroed out; moved to Capital Budget.
- Stephen noting we are not using Free Cash to balance budget.

Stephen Curley opened up the meeting to questions.

Question- Why is lottery aid down?

Answer – The state formula changed about 10 years ago.

Question - What is the status of the Police overtime; doesn't he have a contractual obligation.

Answer – Town Accountant is still concerned. Police Chief is still asking for \$150,000 more at Town Meeting. Advisory reviewed the FY19 YTD spend as of 3/31/19 and his budget was 74% through 75% of the year.

Question – Stabilization not growing

Answer – This is still a concern; Town Accountant wants to increase funding each year. Worker's Compensation Stabilization, trying to move to self-funding. OPEB Fund – also trying to fund each year. The pressure has been to cover payroll and prevent layoffs.

Question - Is it true that Hingham is at 0 for their Stabilization Fund.
Answer – This information is provided from the Department of Revenue.

Question – Capital Budget – Any planning set aside for Police, Fire, Community Center buildings
Answer – At this point – nothing has been set aside. It's estimated to cost \$30M for all buildings; trying to shift away from borrowing.

Question – Is there money in the budget for the clean-up of the Ponds.
Answer – Yes – it's been ongoing.

Question – Infrastructure bill approved in Washington today – do you know how this will impact Pembroke.
Answer – Not sure how it will impact Municipalities.

Stephen Curley thanked everyone for coming. If there are more questions, please send to Sabrina Chilcott, Assistant to the Town Manager.

The committee reviewed and discussed the following correspondence:

Deborah Wall, Library Director is asking Advisory to amend the library budget on town meeting floor, specifically the book line, by adding \$5,000 to the \$85,000.

Upon motion moved by Maria Karas and 2nd by Kelly Seifert to amend the library budget on town meeting floor by adding \$5,000 to the \$85,000 book line was

VOTED¹: Favorable Action Seifert to amend the library budget on town meeting floor by adding \$5,000 to the \$85,000 book line. Stephen Walsh supported the motion.

Upon motion moved by Stephen Walsh and 2nd by Maria Karas the meeting minutes of April 29, 2019 was

VOTED²: To accept the meeting minutes of April 29, 2019. Kelly Seifert supported the motion.

The next Advisory meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 7:00PM; joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen and Town Moderator to review the Annual and Special Town Meeting Articles.

The Annual Town Meeting is Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 7:00pm at the Pembroke High School. Advisory will meet at 6:30pm.

Advisory adjourned at 7:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Peterson, Clerk

¹⁻² The Chairperson did not vote on these motion.