

TOWN OF PEMBROKE  
APPROVED  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
03 MAY2021

Linda Peterson, Chairperson opened the meeting of the Advisory Committee via Remote ZOOM/PACTV and read the statement pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law at 7:00PM on 03 May 2021.

Also present were: Sandra Beaton, Kristi Cullinane, Matthew Rushing (joined at 7:45pm), Matthew Norton, Robert Kenney and John Scholl

**Absent:** Stephen Walsh, Tim Landy

**Guests:** William Chenard, Town Manager, Erin Obey, School Superintendent; Mike Tropeano, School Committee Chairperson

Linda welcomed Bill Chenard, Town Manager. His first discussion topic:  
FY 21 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Revenue and Expenses.

Bill shared his screen:

- Expenses are at 75% maintained; where they should be
- Solid Waste – cautionary note due to delayed billing
- Revenue – as expected at 75% ratio; Local Receipts at 91%; Enterprise funds have done really well; Waste Revenue on target.

Expense Detail:

- Debt- the scheduled debt payments are complete. The budget will close on budget.
- Pension Assessment payments are complete. The budget will close on budget.
- Elections – We are requesting a budget supplement under Article 1 of the 2021 Special Town Meeting.
- Information Technology – We are requesting a budget supplement under Article 1 of the 2021 Special Town Meeting.
- Snow & Ice will be closed at a fall town meeting or during the recap process. M.G.L. Ch. 44 Section 31D allows municipalities to expend in excess of appropriation.

Annual Town Meeting Article discussion presented by Bill:

Bill confirmed with committee members that they received the updated ATM Articles; all agreed. He noted that some Articles have been withdrawn and some have been renumbered. He identified the following Articles he would like to discuss tonight. Articles 3, 4, 14 and 16-20.

### **ARTICLE 3 – WATER ENTERPRISE OPERATION BUDGET**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to operate the Water Enterprise Fund as shown in **Appendix C attached to this warrant**, or take any other action relative thereto.

Bill noted he added \$100,000 for Reserve Fund (in case something happens to our water) for a total budget of \$2,425,817. Linda asked why the expenses decreased. Bill said the main driver is electricity; it's saving us a little bit of money. John Scholl asked how the Water and Waste budget works. Bill said it depends on what the reserves are; Water is 2-2.5% and Waste is \$5-\$10.

### **ARTICLE 4 – SOLID WASTE OPERATING BUDGET**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to operate the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund as shown in **Appendix D attached to this warrant**, or take any other action relative thereto.

Bill said the expenses are a daily struggle. He noted that in an effort to reduce cost he will be (Talking Trash) a segment to be aired this Saturday (5/8/21). The budget total is \$2,200,760. Matt Norton asked about Debt Services. Bill said the cost of debt incurs as a result of trash, i.e. original purchase of bins, capping of the land fill. John Scholl asked if the contract with the hauler is Pembroke only. Bill said yes; he tried to negotiate with south

<sup>1-4</sup>The Chairperson did not vote on this motion

shore towns. The contract negotiated is for one year with two one year extensions. He also received tipping three year contract with blackout clause.

Bill paused the discussion as Erin Obey and Mike Tropeano joined the meeting to discuss the School budget. Mike started the conversation relaying that the School Committee voted to move forward with the Town Manager budget recommendation for the School in the amount of 35.5M.

- No staffing cuts for FY22
- They have added 3.1 new positions (.6 School Nurse/high school; .5 Social Worker; 1 Tech support; 1 Art Teacher).
- Pembroke received 2M to date to deal with student learning loss
- The school is using \$100,000 from the CARES Act to balance the budget (one time expenditures). The money will be divided evenly to determine student learning loss as well as adding the topic of social justice to the curriculum.
- There is still 1M left of ESSA money; they have until 2023 to spend.
- Sandy asked if there were restrictions on how to spend the ESSA funding. Mike said 1) Learning Loss 2) Return to Learning and also PPE, air quality, etc. The ESSA 3 funds can be used for “return to learn” – deadline to use these funds is September 30, 2024. Linda asked who gets to decide learning loss. Erin said it is left up to the school district. They will look at MCASS as a data point. If a student is present the day of MCAS testing they must participate; remote is optional.

Linda asked about the student/teacher ratio. Erin said it’s flat for next year but 50 students less across the three elementary schools. There may be some students that may repeat kindergarten and first grade. She is not sure yet; don’t know the numbers for next year yet. Linda asked if we are still losing students to charter schools. Mike said it has leveled off. Vocational schools have been the same as in the past.

Linda asked what the big issue for the school would be going forward. Mike said it will look different and we’ll need to look at their budget. Revenue will be the challenge; it’s “Urban” versus “Suburban” thing, not getting their fair share. Erin said they meet families and student where their at and are struggling on how to fund that. Erin will forward their budget slides along to Bill Chenard and Advisory.

Linda thanked Erin and Mike for coming and discussing the school budget tonight.

Bill continued his discussion on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles asking the committee if they would like to vote on Article 3 and 4 discussed at the beginning of the meeting. Advisory agreed.

Upon motion by Matthew Norton 2<sup>nd</sup> by Matthew Rushing to vote **Favorable Action on Article 3 – WATER ENTERPRISE OPERATION BUDGET** - To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to operate the Water Enterprise Fund as shown in **Appendix C**, or take any other action relative thereto.

**VOTED<sup>1</sup>:** To vote **Favorable Action on Article 3 – WATER ENTERPRISE OPERATION BUDGET** - To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to operate the Water Enterprise Fund as shown in **Appendix C**, or take any other action relative thereto via **Roll Call:** John Scholl YES; Kristi Cullinane YES; Sandra Beaton YES; Robert Kenney YES; Matthew Norton YES; Matthew Rushing YES

Upon motion by Matthew Rushing 2<sup>nd</sup> by Matthew Norton to vote **Favorable Action on Article 4 – SOLID WASTE OPERATING BUDGET** - To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to operate the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund as shown in **Appendix D**, or take any other action relative thereto.

**VOTED<sup>2</sup>:** To vote **Favorable Action on Article 4 – SOLID WASTE OPERATING BUDGET** - To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to operate the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund as shown in **Appendix D**, or take any other action relative thereto. via **Roll Call:** John Scholl YES; Kristi Cullinane YES; Sandra Beaton YES; Robert Kenney YES; Matthew Norton YES; Matthew Rushing YES

<sup>1-4</sup>The Chairperson did not vote on this motion

Upon motion by Matthew Rushing 2<sup>nd</sup> by Matthew Norton to vote **Favorable Action on Article 14 – AMEND TOWN BYLAWS: LEASH LAW VIOLATIONS** To see if the Town will vote to amend Article XX, Section 8 of the Bylaws of the Town of Pembroke, entitled “Police Regulations,” by deleting the words shown in strikethrough and adding in place thereof the words shown in bold, as follows; or take any other action relative thereto.

**VOTED<sup>3</sup>:** To vote **Favorable Action on Article 14 – AMEND TOWN BYLAWS: LEASH LAW VIOLATIONS** To see if the Town will vote to amend Article XX, Section 8 of the Bylaws of the Town of Pembroke, entitled “Police Regulations,” by deleting the words shown in strikethrough and adding in place thereof the words shown in bold, as follows; or take any other action relative thereto. via **Roll Call:** John Scholl YES; Kristi Cullinane YES; Sandra Beaton YES; Robert Kenney YES; Matthew Norton YES; Matthew Rushing YES

Bill and committee members discussed the Planning Board Articles 16-20 and agreed to defer their vote until their next meeting.

Linda thanked Bill for his presentations and thanked him for coming.

Upon motion moved by Sandra Beaton and 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Scholl to approve the meeting minutes of April 15, 2021

**VOTED<sup>4</sup>:** To accept the meeting minutes of April 15, 2021 via **Roll Call:** John Scholl YES; Kristi Cullinane YES; Sandra Beaton YES; Robert Kenney YES; Matthew Norton abstained; Matthew Rushing YES

The committee talked about the remaining Town Meeting Warrant Articles to be voted, specifically the Library article. They agreed to follow-up with Bill Chenard and ask if this article will be withdrawn similar to the Fire Department article.

Linda reviewed Advisory’s meetings scheduled prior to Town Meeting, the next one scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Following Town Meeting on June 22<sup>nd</sup> Advisory is scheduled to meet Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup> .

Advisory adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Stephen Walsh, Clerk

<sup>1-4</sup>The Chairperson did not vote on this motion