

TOWN OF PEMBROKE  
APPROVED  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
16 MARCH 2022

Linda Peterson, Chairperson opened the meeting of the Advisory Committee at Town Hall at 6:33PM on 16 March 2022.

Also present were: Tim Landy, Sandra Beaton, Robert Kenney, Liz Benotti, Matthew Rushing, Stephen Walsh and John Scholl

**Absent:** Kristi Cullinane

**Guest:** Bill Chenard, Town Manager; Jim Shea, Acting Fire Chief; Rick MacDonald, Police Chief; Lee-Ann Meehl, Animal Care and Control; Lisa Cullity, Health Agent and Wendy Lapierre, Deputy Police Chief

Linda proceeded with agenda items.

Upon motion moved by Tim Landy and 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Scholl to approve the meeting minutes of March 8, 2022 with the correction of a few typographical corrections.

**VOTED<sup>1</sup>:** To accept the meeting minutes of March 8, 2022 with the correction of a few typographical corrections. John Scholl, Tim Landy, Robert Kenney, Liz Benotti, Sandra Beaton, Matthew Rushing supported the motion.

Advisory received a third draft of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and Linda noted that The Select Board voted "Favorable Action" on Articles six, seven, eight, thirteen and fourteen.

Linda welcomed Bill Chenard, Town Manager.

Bill updated the committee on the following topics:

- Mayflower Group confirmed the FY23 Healthcare rate increase of 3.5%. Bill had a place holder of 7.5% so that puts the town back in the green.
- Massachusetts Department of Transportation finalized the budget for the route 36 project as 8.8M; 110% is 97.7M in reserve for items misuse by their folks. Results of town, re: sidewalks, we would have to pay.
- PhaseTwo of the Town Landing continues, expected to be completed before summer.
- Mattakeesett Playground should be completed by spring.
- Community Center building is coming along. Bill will be presenting an update to the Select Board next week. Still on track to open next summer.

### **Questions**

#### **Why was Pleasant Street dug up?**

This was due to a water main break; had to repair ¼ mile of the road.

**Fire Department** - Wage & Salaries are contractual; we're currently in negotiations and there may be changes as a result. We went from FY22 3.7M to FY23 3.78M. No major areas to highlight. New this year, Bill added OT and increased OT Training. Training is quarterly, 4 hours per staff; they have certain things flagged for this training. General expenses – fuel expenses are a concern and are on Bill's "red line" list and being monitored.

#### **Jim Shea – Acting Fire Chief**

There are 32 career positions within the fire department. Jim shared his organizational chart. Pembroke does **not** have a lot of fires but must be available. Emergency Management Services is about 70% of what they do. They are able to bill at a higher rate because they have an all Paramedic staff. Some services that are provided:

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

- Transport to local hospitals such as South Shore and BID Plymouth.
- Fire safety training in the elementary schools and New England Villages.
- They have a Dive Team and are part of the Plymouth County Resource Team.
- Inspectional Services for residential and commercial.

#### **Questions:**

##### **Is Paramedic pay for fire fighters too?**

All fire fighters are Paramedics.

##### **Does Pembroke need to support (ambulance services) to emergency centers such as Health Stop?**

Yes – we support all Pembroke addresses. This is a good revenue source for Pembroke; we have 3 ambulances.

##### **Does the ambulance pay for itself?**

Yes, it covers four full time staff salaries and benefits as well.

##### **Do we charge a fee for commercial businesses for inspections?**

Yes - \$50.00 for fire and carbon monoxide.

##### **Why does the fire department skip the rank of Lieutenant and go right to Captain?**

It's been an arbitrary call; however, The new fire chief should take a look at the role of Lieutenant. Bill noted that you do see the Lieutenant role in a lot of large Fire Departments, the Captain would cover the station and the Lieutenant cover the shift.

**Police Department** – There are some changes to the Wages & Salaries. We have hired a new Police Chief and added Superior Officers. The Sargent salary line item went down due to a retirement and one was promoted to Lieutenant. General Expenses – Computer maintenance line item increased; this will become more expensive due to the need for new equipment. This is on Bill's "red list" to monitor as well as the fuel line. There is a \$17,000 increase in expenses.

#### **Rick MacDonald – Police Chief**

Rick shared his organizational chart. The police department is a 24/7 operation with three shifts. They have 52 officers and 32 are full-time. He noted that they have the same number of officers as they did 25 years ago.

The police take 14,000 – 16,000 calls per year and receive all the 911 calls.

Rick created a Provisional Deputy Chief position by eliminating the Administrative Lieutenant position. This was designed for the purpose of succession planning for the Police Chief role. Wendy Lapierre is currently in this position.

- The Animal Care and Control Officer, Lee-Ann Meehl works for both Pembroke and Hanover.
- Pembroke is a member of the South Easton Community Search and Rescue that serves 32 towns and also a member of the Dive team and Stress Management team.
- We have a full-time School Resource Officer for the middle and high schools.
- Pembroke is a member of the Plymouth County Outreach Program and HUB. Wendy Lapierre has been the face of these programs for Pembroke and does a great job.
- We have officers managing traffic complaints for speeding, trucking violations. He noted they have electronic signs throughout the town that record data such as time of day, speed, how many vehicles pass during the day. They can use this information to determine if it's a problem area.
- The police now have a new boat and will be out on the water spring, summer and fall.

#### **Questions:**

##### **Why the change in the Chief's Salary?**

Negotiated the Chief's holidays (he gave up 6); this increased his base pay.

##### **Patrol holiday – why the \$20,000 difference from FY21 to FY22?**

This is a contractual obligation but not everyone takes advantage but it still needs to be budgeted.

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

**Do you have an update on the Opioid situation in Pembroke?**

The situation is still the same and still happening. More patients are surviving due to receiving Narcan in time. Both police and fire respond to these calls. Police normally arrive first then turn over to fire.

**Are you seeing a specific age group?**

The age ranges from 15 to 70 in Plymouth County

**How are these programs funded, i.e. Outreach Program & HUB?**

Private and state funding.

**Animal Control** – Wages & Salaries – adding personnel plan for on-call employee to cover nights, weekends. Hanover covers half the cost. General Expenses – slight increase in fuel; we want to make sure this is covered. You've seen this in other budgets.

**Questions:**

**What's the Coyote population in Pembroke; would not like to never encounter one.**

They're protected and we must learn to live with them.

**We've had trouble with Beavers lately. This topic was reviewed by the Board of Health.**

The Board of Health determined this was not a public health issue but will re-visit again if necessary.

**Emergency Management** – Members of this team include Fire, Police, Board of Health. The numbers jumped in 2021 due to COVID. We opened the warming areas but not overnight. The Library is used now but this will move to the Community Center when completed, where we can also provide food service.

**Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles Overview**

Bill presented an overview of the 3<sup>rd</sup> draft of the warrant articles:

Articles 1-6 – Budget

Article 7 – Community Preservation – received 12 proposals; it's now closed

Article 9 – Collecting Bargaining Agreement – not ready yet

Article 10 – Public Way Accept – Lisa's Way

Article 11 – Amend Zoning Board Bylaw – Washington Street Development. Bill submitted this article to change the zoning for this area. There is a proposed plan to build a supermarket employing 200 people. This proposal will go before the Planning Board on March 28, 2022.

Article 12 – Community Preservation Funded Project Proposals

Articles 13 Town Reports & Article 14 Town Elections– Administrative – Consent Agenda

Article 15 – Design and construct Public Safety Building – HOLD

Article 16 – Citizen Petition – this is a "recall" petition submitted by residents of both political parties to amend the recall petition days and voter percent requirements. We don't have a "recall" as part of the Bylaws; it's part of the state statute that would have to change.

**Questions:**

**When will the Capital Budget be finalized?**

We don't know yet.

**Will anyone from the Planning Board be meeting with Advisory?**

Bill will reach out to the Planning Board and get back to the committee.

**Is there an update on the Country Club property?**

Yes – its moving along and should start next year. The same developer that bought the Country Club bought the Funeral home property on Mattakeesett Street and is proposing 40B housing; approximately 36 units. This would bring Pembroke over the 10%.

Linda and committee members thanked Bill, Jim Shea, Rick MacDonald, Lee-Ann Meehl, Lisa Cullity and Wendy Lapierre for their presentations tonight

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

The next Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 6:30PM Town Hall.

Advisory adjourned at 8:00PM.

Respectfully submitted

Stephen Walsh, Clerk

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