

TOWN OF PEMBROKE
APPROVED
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
JUNE 8, 2023

Linda Peterson, Chairperson opened the meeting on Thursday, June 8, 2023 at Town Hall at 6:00PM. Also present were: Liz Benotti, Tim Landy, Stephen Walsh, John Scholl and Sandra Beaton,

Absent: Kristi Cullinane, Robert Kenney

Guests: William Chenard, Town Manager: Louis Carpenter & Stephen Patt, Advisory member candidates

Bill provided an update regarding ongoing projects:

- Community Center Building is going well and on schedule; still under budget. There was a change order for \$3,200.00 related to cable/video for more speed.
- Route 36 project is moving along; a few issues with State Inspector and contractors.
- Congress Street Calvert – contractor selected and moving forward
- Herring Run – contract not signed yet.
- Spring road paving nearly complete.
- Monroe Street – design and engineering complete, will be moving forward.
- Non-town project by Eversource on West Elm Street is moving along.
- Eversource agreed to repave Water Street after completing road work.
- Out to bid on “chiller” for the Town Hall Building.

Bill was asked about moving all town elections to the Community Center Building once project is completed. Bill said the Town Clerk is recommending but would require a vote by the Select Board.

Revenue

- Tax Levy is closed out; \$10,000 below projection.
- State Aid exact
- Local Receipts – more than expected by \$56,800

Expenses

- Information Technology (-6.28%)– grant money from state was miscoded; this will go away.
- Elections – (-29.53%) - this will go away
- Animal Control (-14.02%) – freezer at end of life, also rabies testing.
- Snow & Ice (-46.76%) – (-86,505.90)

Bill said he wasn't concerned about the other expenses; in pretty good shape. This will require a meeting with Advisory in July to transfer funds to cover expenses.

Bill mentioned that the electric aggregate expires in November 2023. They went out to bid and signed a two-year contract agreement with First Point Power for 14 cents per kilowatt hours. The current contract is 32 ½ cents per kilowatt hours. He encourages residents to join the aggregate if they haven't already. This is a great savings.

¹⁻⁴The Chairperson did not vote on this motion

Three members of Advisory are up for re-appointment this year, Stephen Walsh, Sandra Beaton and John Scholl. All agreed to continue as Advisory Committee members. They will be reappointed at the next Select Board meeting.

Linda thanked Bill.

Linda welcomed Louis Carpenter and provided an overview of the role and responsibilities of the Advisory Committee. Linda asked him to confirm he is a registered voter, as this information was not noted on his application. Louis confirmed he is.

- He was asked why he was interested in joining Advisory. He said he is passionate about finance and this seemed perfect for him.
- Background and skills - he received his Bachelor's degree from Assumption College, worked for Morgan Stanley for three years. He attended Northeastern University where he earned his degree in Economics & Public Policy. He worked for a start-up company but now works for Vista Print where he is responsible for maximizing long term profits and making customers happy. He does tons of analysis.
- He grew up in Connecticut, then moved to Boston. He wanted to move back to the suburbs. During COVID, July 2020, he moved to Pembroke and fell in love with the area. His wife is from Halifax.
- What improvement ideas would you have for Pembroke. He said he lives on the south side of Pembroke and there is little to no commercial business. Any area of growth opportunity to expand commercial business.
- Linda noted that she was recently asked by a member of the Select Board if Advisory would support a "Pot Shop" in Pembroke? It would be a good revenue stream.
- He is currently an active member of the Zoning Board of Appeals and spoke with Peg Struzik, Town Clerk, who confirmed it would not be a conflict if he was appointed to Advisory. His time commitment with the ZBA is one meeting a month on Monday nights.

Linda thanked Louis for coming. There is only one open seat, so if not selected she asked if he would still be interested if another vacancy opens. He said yes, he's been interested for a couple years.

Upon motion moved by Tim Landy and 2nd by Liz Benotti to approve the meeting minutes of May 9, 2023 as written.

VOTED¹: To accept the meeting minutes of May 9, 2023 as written. Tim Landy, Liz Benotti, Stephen Walsh. Sandra Beaton, John Scholl supported the motion.

Linda share the news of the Select Board reorganization at their meeting on Wednesday, June 7th:

Daniel Trabucco – Chair

Steven Ciciotti – Vice Chair

Tracy Marino – Clerk

John Brown – Member

Richard Flynn - Member

¹⁻⁴The Chairperson did not vote on this motion

Linda asked the committee about reorganization of the Advisory Committee and if anyone was interested in the Chair or Vice-Chair/Clerk roles.

The committee discussed briefly.

Upon motion moved by Stephen Walsh and 2nd by Sandra Beaton to re-appoint Linda Peterson as Chairperson of the Advisory Committee.

VOTED³: To re-appoint Linda Peterson as Chairperson of the Advisory Committee. Stephen Walsh, John Scholl, Sandra Beaton, Tim Landy and Liz Benotti supported the motion.

Upon motion moved by Sandra Beaton and 2nd by Tim Landy to re-appoint Stephen Walsh as Vice-Chair/Clerk of the Advisory Committee.

VOTED⁴: To re-appoint Stephen Walsh as Vice-Chair/Clerk of the Advisory Committee. John Scholl, Sandra Beaton, Tim Landy and Liz Benotti supported the motion.

Linda welcomed Stephen Patt and provided an overview of the role and responsibilities of the Advisory Committee.

- He was asked why he was interested in joining Advisory. He has been a full-time resident for six years and also a part-time resident for a long time. He has questions about the town spending and doesn't know the answers. He wants to learn how it works and get an understanding and take a role to effect change is his primary motivation.
- Background and skills - he worked 50 years in retail and wholesale produce. For twenty years he was responsible for an \$830M dollar business that centered around Profit and Loss analysis.
- Where else have you been active in the town – He was the VP of Pembroke Water Association but had to step away due to work traveling commitments. Out of college he was Conservation agent in both Hanover and Taunton. He has attended Pembroke town meetings.
- What improvement ideas would you have for Pembroke. The way town information is communicated needs improvement. You can't always get correct information from social media but when mis-information is being spread he does notice that it's corrected by a town official. He asked about the business tax base. Linda said there is one tax base for the town. There doesn't seem to be economic business growth.

Linda thanked Stephan for coming. There is only one open seat, so if not selected she asked if he would still be interested if another vacancy opens. He said yes.

The committee reviewed and discussed both candidates at length.

Upon motion moved by Stephen Walsh and 2nd by John Scholl to appoint Stephen Patt to the vacant position on the Advisory Committee, term expiring 2025.

¹⁻⁴The Chairperson did not vote on this motion

VOTED²: To appoint Stephan Patt to the vacant position on the Advisory Committee, term expiring 2025. Stephen Walsh, John Scholl, Sandra Beaton, Tim Landy and Liz Benotti supported the motion.

Advisory adjourned at 8:40PM.

Respectfully submitted

Stephen Walsh, Clerk

¹⁻⁴The Chairperson did not vote on this motion