

TOWN OF PEMBROKE
APPROVED
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
DECEMBER 7, 2023

Linda Peterson, Chairperson opened the meeting on Thursday, December 7, 2023 at Town Hall at 6:00PM. Also present were: Tim Landy, Sandra Beaton, Robert Kenney, Liz Benotti and John Scholl

Absent: Stephen Walsh, Stephen Patt

Guests: William Chenard, Town Manager; Brian Logan, Advisory candidate

Bill distributed an overview of FY24 expenses and also discussed revenue.

FY24 Expenses– Tracking well. Bill made note of the expenses below:

- Town Landing – due to summer operation
- Debt Service – paid when due
- Pension – cost savings to make one payment at beginning of the fiscal year.

FY24 Revenue

- Slightly below on excise tax.
- Meal tax \$134,000 for first quarter; will review again in January. Bill was asked if excise tax is paid on town vehicles; Bill said no.
- New Solar company is producing well; the town has massive credits. It has been close to ten years and it's still performing well. The life of solar panels is 25 years, however, the contract states 20 years. The town doesn't own the equipment, the company does.

Bill handed out his FY25 Budget Manual; Select Board calendar with 2024 budget dates, and a detailed memo.

- Bill met with Erin Obey, School Superintendent about budget priorities and limitations. He is participating in the joint budget meetings with Select Board members John Brown and Tracy Marino and School Committee members Patrick Chilcott and Susan Bollinger. The FY25 Budget will be presented at a joint meeting with the Select Board, Advisory Committee and School Committee on February 7, 2024.
- FY24 State Aid and New Growth did not meet expectations. New growth was estimated at \$400,000; certified new growth was \$301,570. This impacts the current fiscal year but future fiscal years as well because new growth is added to the Tax Levy and then 2.5% is applied.
- Bill said he estimated a small increase in Local aid but it went down for FY24, a decrease of \$93,919 from FY23. He has concerns about state aid for next year. November collections were down \$131 million when compared to last November; this represents 11% below the Healey administration's estimate. We need to press our legislative delegation to make every effort to assist us with State Aid.
- If state revenues continue to meet expectations, the Governor will likely need to make 9C cuts mid-year, what's under her control; authority extends to the executive branch agencies. MGL 29, Sec. 9C (deficiency of revenue). If you don't meet your target, emergency cuts are likely.
- Town Managers in Plymouth County are projecting a 10% increase in healthcare.
- Snow & Ice – budgeted \$185,000; expended \$126,000 to date, most spent on salt. The town is looking for plow drivers; down 22 people.

Linda asked committee members if the budget calendar dates for 2024 worked for them. Liz and Sandy have a conflict with 1/11/24. The committee agreed to change this date to 1/18/24; all other dates on the work fine.

¹⁻²The Chairperson did not vote on this motion

Bill provided a project update.

- Community Center project is 87% complete and on schedule and under budget. Expected opening is May/June 2024.
- Upgrading internet at Town Hall and will have optic fiber line from Town Hall to Community Center.
- Public Safety building; survey work being done; perks next week and designs moving forward. Committee is scheduled to meet next week.
- Congress Street Culvert work is complete and street is open.
- A proposed 40B rental of twenty units is planned for the corner of Plain and Lake streets. They met with the Affordable Housing Committee, Select Board and will meet with Planning Board next.

Linda thanked Bill for these updates.

Linda welcomed Brian Logan and asked why he was interested in joining the Advisory Committee. Brian said it was time to get involved and it also has to do with town Finances. He has lived in Pembroke for 12 years and loves it and wants to give back. He is employed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Public Safety, Division of Professional Services. Linda asked if his job was a conflict? He said he spoke with his supervisor and the state ethics commission and they didn't see it as a conflict. In his role, he investigates accidents; inspects over 3,000 amusement devices. He is experienced with unions. Brian was asked what he hoped to learn. He said, fiancé of the town and how the money is spent; are we reinventing the wheel. Linda explained the role Advisory is to present a balanced budget to the town. Since hiring a Town Manager, the budget process is the Town Manager's responsibility. Advisory reviews and submits their recommendations on all Town Warrant Article. Brian was asked where he sees Pembroke in five years. He said more for younger people to do, the Community Center is a great start.

Upon motion moved by Robert Kenney and 2nd by Tim Landy to appoint Brian Logan as a member of the Advisory Committee

VOTED¹: To appoint Brian Logan as a member of the Advisory Committee. Tim Landy, Sandra Beaton, Robert Kenney and John Scholl supported the motion.

Advisory will notify the Town Manager's office and confirm date to meet with the Select Board for his confirmation.

Upon motion moved by Tim Landy and 2nd by Sandra Beaton to approve the meeting minutes of October 24, 2023 as written.

VOTED²: To accept the meeting minutes of October 24, 2023 as written. Tim Landy, Sandra Beaton, Robert Kenney and John Scholl supported the motion.

Linda accepted John Scholl's resignation. He will be relocating. Linda thanked John for his service to the committee and the town and wished him and his family well.

Liz left the meeting at 7:13pm. Advisory adjourned at 7:38pm.

Respectfully submitted

Stephen Walsh, Clerk

¹⁻²The Chairperson did not vote on this motion