

TOWN OF PEMBROKE
APPROVED
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
21 April 2016

Clerk, Stephen Curley opened the meeting of the Advisory Committee in Pembroke Town Hall at 7:30PM on 21 April 2016. Also present were Timothy Brennan, James McCollum, John G. Brown, Jr., and Elizabeth Monks.

Absent: Linda Peterson, Stephen Walsh and Richard McManus

Guests: Ed Thorne, Town Administrator and Michael Buckley, Town Accountant

The Committee met with Ed Thorne, Town Administrator and Michael Buckley, Town Accountant to review the FY17 Budget and answer questions from Advisory on the Annual and Special Town Meeting Articles for the May 10, 2016 Town Meeting.

Question: Article 5 - what is the cost to purchase the two parcels of land 369 Washington Street?

Answer: This is the Benson property – the purchase price is \$820,000 with an additional \$25,000 from free cash up front. This will require a 2/3 vote for approval at Town Meeting.

Question: Article 13 - What is the property at 555 Center Street and what is the cost to purchase?

Answer: This includes sidewalks and a 3-5 ft. bike way. This construction will be started after the Route 14 project is complete.

Question: Article 1 - STM - how is it funded?

Answer: This Article will be funded \$70,000 from Overlay Surplus, \$20,000 DPW payroll and \$120,000 from free cash. Mike noted there is \$612,000 in free cash.

Question: The residents asked for a Financial Overview before the Annual Town Meeting last year. Are you or Michael Buckley planning to provide residents with a Financial Overview at The Annual Town Meeting in May?

Answer: Ed and Mike will prepare a brief financial overview that will include some historical data going back one or two years and present at the start of the Annual Town Meeting.

Ed reviewed the revised FY17 Budget. Mike noted that the Town does not have the funding for the \$300,000 for Article 15 submitted by the DPW to supplement Chapter 90. Pembroke will receive \$530,000 from Chapter 90.

Stephen Curley asked Michael Buckley if the DPW had the legal authority to spend the money for sand. Mike said the budget needs to be tightened up. Steve noted the amount spent for Snow & Ice came in at 60% of last year; overspending by \$300,000. What they did was wrong and gross negligence.

Ed distributed the two page summary of the adjustments to balance the FY17 Budget along with each department detail. Health Insurance Town Contribution revised from \$7,090,575 to \$7,377,433 for a difference of \$286,858. Page two lists Revenues to be increased.

The committee reviewed and discussed the email from Sabrina Chicott, Executive Assistant to the Board of Selectmen regarding **Article 20**. The Planning Board held their Public Meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 with a slight change to the Article, the Board members and the public were in agreement with the content.

Article 20 – The committee revisited this article and their vote from their 11 April 2016 meeting for a Town Meeting Floor recommendation.

VOTED¹: Following the discussion, motion to reconsider vote of Town Meeting Floor for Article 20 moved by Stephen Curley 2nd by Timothy Brennan. James McCollum, John G. Brown, Jr., and Elizabeth Monks supported the motion.

VOTED²: Following the discussion, vote changed to Favorable Action moved by James McCollum 2nd by John G. Brown, Jr., Stephen Curley, Timothy Brennan, and Elizabeth Monks supported the motion.

The committee reviewed and discussed the email sent from Tim Brennan regarding Collective Bargaining Agreement Town By-law that states the said agreement must be presented to the Advisory Committee no later than (30) days prior to the start of the Town Meeting. The DPW and Clerical agreements were signed by the Board of Selectmen on April 11, 2016 and delivered to Advisory at their meeting the same night. This would be 29 days prior to Town Meeting. Steve Curley explained this bylaw was submitted sixteen years ago to give Advisory an opportunity to review these contracts before Town Meeting. In the past the Board of Selectmen would vote on the contracts the night of the Town Meeting. In recent years The Board of Selectmen have done a remarkable job of keeping Advisory involved. Tim said he would like further discussion on this or talk to Ed Thorne. He noted that taxes are going up and services being cut. Healthcare costs increasing 15% this year. The committee agreed to send an email to the Board of Selectmen to inquire how these agreements were reached.

Upon motion made by James McCollum and 2nd by Timothy Brennan following the discussion with one correction “Article 5 of Special Town Meeting – change Route 139 to Route 53”, it was

VOTED³: To accept the meeting minutes of 11 April 2016 as amended. John G. Brown, Jr. and Elizabeth Monks supported the motion. Stephen Curley abstained.

An email was received from Sabrina Chilcott, Executive Assistant to The Board of Selectmen inviting the Advisory Committee and Steve Dodge, Town Moderator to their May 2, 2016 meeting at 7:40pm to review the Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles.

The April 25, 2016 Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled to be recorded by PAC TV.

The Advisory Committee agreed to send Michael Buckley, Town Accountant an email asking how departments overspent their budgets. Would he be able to provide an explanation of overages referenced in Article 1 of the Special Town Meeting Warrant?

The Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:45PM. The next Advisory Committee has scheduled two meetings to be posted for next week:

Monday, April 25, 2016 and Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Curley, Clerk