

TOWN OF PEMBROKE
APPROVED
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
11 December 2017

Linda Peterson, Chairperson opened the meeting of the Advisory Committee in Pembroke Town Hall at 7:00PM on 11 December 2017. Also present were, Stephen Curley, Timothy Brennan, James McCollum, John G. Brown, Jr. Stephen Walsh, and Elizabeth Monks

Linda opened the meeting by discussing Timothy Brennan's letter of resignation from Advisory. Tim said he does not have enough time to serve on Advisory but still wants to be involved with the Town Government Study Committee working towards getting a Town Manager in place. The Town of Pembroke's operating budget at 60 million dollars we should have a Town Manager position; working on a proposal for the spring Annual Town Meeting. Stephen Walsh noted Pembroke needs someone with the expertise to do this job and should consider taking a year to do a search. Tim's third child was born two weeks ago and his twins are now three years old. Tim and his wife plan to stay and raise their family in Pembroke. Linda asked Tim to forward his resignation letter to the Board of Selectmen.

Upon motion moved by Stephen Curley and 2nd by Stephen Walsh to accept the immediate resignation of Timothy Brennan regretfully from Advisory was

VOTED¹: To accept the immediate resignation of Timothy Brennan regretfully from Advisory James McCollum, John G. Brown Jr., and Elizabeth Monks supported the motion.

The committee reviewed and discussed the Advisory Article X By-Law and agreed the language be updated around the number of committee members that make a quorum. The Article currently states that the appointed individuals should not exceed nine (9) and a minimum not go below five (5). With the recent change in members a quorum of (5) members has been difficult. James McCollum said it shouldn't be an even number of four (4) but three (3) did not seem enough. With further discussion, the committee agreed to update the Article to read "appointed individuals not to exceed nine (9) members and a minimum not to go below four existing (4) members. They also agreed "a majority of the serving members shall constitute a quorum thereof".

Upon motion moved by James McCollum and 2nd by Stephen Curley to change the Advisory Article X By-Law as follows: "appointed individuals not to exceed nine (9) members and a minimum not to go below four (4) existing members. They also agreed "a majority of the serving members shall constitute a quorum thereof".

VOTED²: To accept changing the Advisory Article X By-Law as follows: "appointed individuals not to exceed nine (9) members and a minimum not to go below four (4) existing members. They also agreed "a majority of the serving members shall constitute a quorum thereof". Timothy Brennan, John G. Brown Jr., Stephen Walsh and Elizabeth Monks supported the motion.

A letter will be sent to the Board of Selectmen requesting an Article noting this change be included in the spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

The committee reviewed and discussed the response received from Ed Thorne, Town Administrator in reference to Advisory's questions regarding the Community Compact. Ed submitted a "Best Practice List" but did not answer the questions asked. The committee agreed to send a follow-up email to Ed and thank him for the list but request an answer the questions asked, i.e. 1)when is the next Community Compact meeting scheduled 2)when will the department head's

¹⁻² The Chairperson did not vote on these motion.

suggestions be compiled and available for review and 3) when will the Community Compact be signed. The committee agreed its costing Pembroke lots of money by dragging our feet. John Brown noted he touched base with surrounding towns such as Duxbury and Hanson and learned the process to sign the Community Compact takes two months.

Linda reviewed the email received from Sabrina Chilcott, Executive Assistant to the Board of Selectmen in reference to a follow-up discussion the Board of Selectmen will have with representatives of the retirees regarding their request to reconsider their vote to raise 'early retiree/non-Medicare eligible retirees' insurance contributions. This meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 18 and Advisory has been invited to attend.

The committee discussed this topic and noted that health insurance has changed dramatically since 2006 when the rate of 15% was voted. The committee discussed the idea of future retiree contributions to begin at a rate of 25% for a certain date such as July 1, 2018 so they would be grandfathered in and include an escalator of 2 1/2 % over ten years moving retiree healthcare contribution to 50% at the end of ten years. Tim noted the cost of healthcare has gone up like 300%; it's not the Town's fault.

The committee agreed to send the Board Selectmen a letter suggesting they consider a 25% healthcare contribution for future retirees as of a certain date for example: July 1, 2018 so they would be grandfathered. In addition consider including an escalator for example: 2 1/2% over ten years moving retiree healthcare contribution to 50%. Advisory plans to attend their meeting on Monday, December 18, 2017.

Steve Curley noted that the deadline for the town to make a decision about Mayflower is December 15th and wondered what about the decision. The committee agreed to ask the Board of Selectmen and Ed Thorne, Town Administrator if a decision was made.

Linda noted that an email was sent to all Department Heads alerting them of the change to FY19 budget review process. Ed Thorne, Town Administrator and Michael Buckley, Town Accountant will be managing the process and if Advisory has questions they will reach out to the department head separately.

The committee agreed to request an update on the Town's FY18 Operating Budget from Michael Buckley, Town Accountant.

Upon motion moved by James McCollum and 2nd by Stephen Walsh the meeting minutes of December 4, 2017 be amended with one change "move the 2006 study discussion from the Strategic Planning meeting up one bullet point to the boys club" was

VOTED: To accept the meeting minutes of 04 December 2017 as amended. John G. Brown Jr., Elizabeth Monks and Linda Peterson supported the motion. Stephen Curley and Timothy Brennan abstained.

Advisory adjourned at 8:15pm. The next Advisory meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 18, 2017 at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Curley, Clerk

¹⁻² The Chairperson did not vote on these motion.