

TOWN OF PEMBROKE
APPROVED
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
29 JANUARY 2018

Linda Peterson, Chairperson opened the meeting of the Advisory Committee in Pembroke Town Hall at 6:00PM on 29 January 2018. Also present were, Stephen Curley, James McCollum, John G. Brown, Jr. Stephen Walsh, Elizabeth Monks and Maria Karas
Guests: Ed Thorne, Town Administrator and Michael Buckley, Town Accountant. Police Chief Rick Wall
PACTV Recording tonight's meeting

Linda opened the meeting welcoming Ed and Mike to discuss the FY19 Budget. All members received a copy of Ed's Budget Message in their packet tonight. Ed held a Department Head meeting in the morning and wanted to follow up with Advisory on some of the questions raised.

- Governor's message for state aid increased to \$15,513,250, a plus figure of \$98,797 (.064%). Chapter 70 funds a plus \$57,960 (.043%) and local aid (lottery) plus \$58,776 or 3.5%.
- Mike said the approach is a little different and referred to the third page from the last of the budget document. The total new revenue after the Governor's budget (that was not kind; less than the town forecasted). Total new revenue is \$1.8M, subtract (debt exclusion); this leaves 1.7M in new revenue.
- Health Insurance rate for the town will increase 5%, 10% was budgeted so recovering 6% (1/2M). The richer health insurance plans increased 7%; Pembroke's increase was 5%. This \$300,000 savings is going to offset the \$53,000 deficit.
- Pension Assessment is \$116,818.
- Shared cost of 1M in new money is available for allocation to departments and schools.
- The school is 80% of the budget and departments 20%. The school department is different cost structure; certain costs are built in. Stress due to out of district placement; \$55,000 deficit.
- The town received \$50,000 less in state aid and we had a \$40,000 increase in FY19 Budget (2-3% over FY18 budget).
- All department budgets have been reviewed and are balanced as of tonight.
- Stephen Curley asked about the other available funds – are you increasing free cash to \$100,000 or \$266,000. Mike said its one-time money. Revenue picture increased our local receipts by \$900,000 significantly improving what we have for free cash. The DPW snow & ice is at \$190,000 deficit as of right now. We will be using some of that money before Town Meeting next year; somethings going to force major layoffs. Departments are saying they need more; larger departments at critical stage. The elephant in the room is (Operational Override). Don't think it's an easy sell; the average tax payer hasn't seen lack of services. This would be a public vote.
- Linda noted from the department head meeting today, they are split on an override this year and may wait until next year. Some department heads are going alone and submitting Articles to the Warrant. Ed noted things have changed from this morning's meeting and will be speaking about those changes at the Board of Selectmen meeting tonight.
- John Brown asked about Health Insurance claims. Mike said the claims are historically better this year; Pembroke is #4 in claims. The other towns that left Mayflower left their money behind and it's ours now.

Advisory thank Ed and Mike for coming.

Stephen Curley suggested obtaining a copy of the FY19 Budget detail from Ed. The committee agreed to send an email to Ed requesting the detail.

¹The Chairperson did not vote on these motion.

The committee reviewed and discussed the following correspondence:

- FY18 budget question response received from Police Chief Wall. He noted his big ticket items were a cruiser purchase of \$43,705 and an unexpected accident repair of \$5,989 (insurance pending). John Brown asked if anyone knew what insurance carrier the town has. Stephen Curley said the insurance money goes into the general fund and not into the Police budget. He will have to replace the car and may need to request money from the Reserve Fund.
- Fire Chief Mike Hill also responded which Linda noted is self-explanatory. He also noted the line item removal of \$17,500 for electrical. This line item was removed from all department budgets when the solar farm program was established. Stephen Walsh questioned if his Ambulance Fund could be turned into a separate capital fund. Stephen Curley said he was not aware of anything other than a general fund. John Brown said he recalled that the town was going to look at other revolving accounts.
- Police Chief Wall stopped by and joined the Advisory meeting in progress. He mentioned that the insurance check for the vehicle accident was received. This vehicle was only 8 months old with 32,000 miles; he is able to salvage the gear but is a loss of \$8,000. He will be requesting to purchase two police vehicles in spring budget. The first year these vehicles reach 40,000 miles and 80,000 miles in year two. The car is then used as a back-up car; they have a 3 year shelf life. Repairs are expensive; for example they just replaced a transmission for \$2,300. It's important for him to get the funding for these vehicles in the spring as they are usually not available in the fall and puts you a year behind. When we're up to speed on that we'll be better off. Advisory thanked Police Chief Wall for stopping by.
- Governor's FY19 Budget email was forwarded to all members. Stephen Curley noted lack of help for towns; aid goes to City's first and what's left goes to the towns.
- As a result of the Strategic Planning retreat a "draft" survey was distributed for feedback. This will be sent electronically to residents.
- The UMASS Community Compact Funded Grant Project Presentation will be held on Wednesday, January 31, 2018 at 6:00PM in Veteran's Hall.
- The FY18 Operating Budget as of January 31, 2018 was discussed. Snow & Ice is at 206% now a \$197,000 deficit.

Upon motion moved by James McCollum and 2nd by Elizabeth Monks the meeting minutes of January 22, 2018 was

VOTED¹: To accept the meeting minutes of January 22, 2018, Stephen Curley, John G. Brown Jr. and Stephen Walsh supported the motion.

Linda Peterson will join Maria Karas at the Board of Selectmen meeting tonight so Maria can be confirmed as a member of Advisory. She will then be sworn in by Mary Ann Smith, Town Clerk.

Advisory adjourned at 6:45pm. The next Advisory meeting is scheduled for **Monday, February 5 2018 at 7:00PM in the Planning Board Meeting Room.**

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Curley, Clerk

¹The Chairperson did not vote on these motion.