

TOWN OF PEMBROKE  
APPROVED  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
26 MARCH 2018

Linda Peterson, Chairperson opened the meeting of the Advisory Committee in Pembroke Town Hall at 7:00PM on 26 March 2018. Also present were Stephen Curley, James McCollum, John G. Brown, Jr. Stephen Walsh, Elizabeth Monks and Maria Karas.  
PACTV recorded tonight's meeting

Linda opened the meeting welcoming Fire Chief Mike Hill to review and discuss his FY19 Budget and the Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article he submitted.

- Beginning with the budget Linda noted the equipment line item increased. Chief Hill said he increased by \$1,000 for items like nozzles, chain saws, small generators and also to replace items that break on the trucks.
- John Brown asked if the ladder truck was the only damage during the recent storms. He said a chain saw broke. The ladder truck is going out for repair; new paint job, new doors and will also complete general maintenance like brakes, tires and axel seals. As of tonight he did not have an estimate for the repairs.
- Linda noticed the clothing allowance line item was missing. Chief Hill said the Board of Selectmen and union negotiated it be added to the employee salary. Stephen Curley said this change increases overtime pay and pension. Chief Hill said employee health insurance contribution is now at 25% for new employees and will be included in the contract.
- Chief Hill spoke about Article 21 he submitted for the Annual Town Meeting. He is asking for \$204,000 to hire two firefighter/paramedics. He said this completes the second half of his plan from last year to have all shifts complete at 7. Linda asked him if he would be happy with this; Chief Hill said it appeases him. He wants eight people on a shift. Stephen Curley said one of his proposals for a new station is to have two different locations; what will that do with staff? Chief Hill said nine staff would be perfect but eight would work. Stephen Curley asked about the other stations. He said knock down station 1; station 3 increase of gear with new personnel.
- In discussing equipment he said engines should be replaced every several years. His vehicles are 2009/2010. He said the vehicles must be a certain age before being considered for grant money. He purchased a service truck two years ago and the new squad truck when into service this week. Linda asked if mutual aid is successful; he said they answered about 150 outcalls. He received about 3,300 in-town calls in the last year.
- He was asked if there is any money left in the Ambulance Fund after using funds to hire two employees last year. He said he still has money and just signed a lease for an Ambulance to replace one. The trade in value of the Ambulance is substantial and goes toward the cost of the new one. The new Ambulance is gasoline not diesel; this is a little savings.
- Chief Hill was asked about damage during storm "Riley". He said he saw about 15 houses hit and about 4 or 5 total losses.

Advisory thank Chief Hill for coming.

Linda and the committee reviewed and discussed the following correspondence:

- Response from Sabrina Chilcott, Assistant to the Town Administrator regarding two questions for the Board of Selectmen. Article 13- the \$45,965 to be used for treating Oldham Pond for the suppression of blue-green algae. This Article was removed and the funding added to the FY19 Budget. Article 25 – Town Manager – Advisory's question should be sent to the Town Government Study Committee as they submitted the Article. Advisory agreed to send their request to add specific job qualifications to this committee.

<sup>1</sup>The Chairperson did not vote on these motion.

- The DPW withdrew their Article requesting a new dump truck for the Cemetery department due to lack of funding
- Sabrina Chilcott acknowledged the figure in the Special Town Meeting Warrant Article 2 was a typo and has been corrected. A revised copy was distributed to the committee tonight.

Upon motion moved by James McCollum and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stephen Curley the meeting minutes of March 19, 2018 was

**VOTED<sup>1</sup>:** To accept the meeting minutes of March 19, 2018, John G. Brown Jr., Stephen Walsh and Maria Karas supported the motion. Elizabeth Monks abstained.

The committee will meet at 6:30PM next week. Michael Buckley said he could answer questions on behalf of Gene Fulmine, DPW Director who is unable to attend.

4/2/18 – 6:30PM Ed Thorne & Michael Buckley – 7:00PM Library Director – 7:30PM DPW

On 4/9/18 Advisory is scheduled to meet with:

7:00PM Brian Van Riper – 8:00PM School Committee

Linda welcomed Police Chief Rick Wall to discuss his FY19 Budget and Articles he submitted in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

- Chief Wall said he submitted two Articles for the Annual Town Meeting. One request is for a cruiser; his intent is to purchase two vehicles each year. He mentioned that McGee donated a vehicle to use while they had a cruiser out of service. The other Article is a request for two officers which will require an override. He needs to have four cruisers on the road per shift at all times; leaving one officer at the station. He currently has two attending the police academy graduating in June. He wants his staff at 36; currently at 31 add the two in academy equals 33. He wants his safety officer back on plus detective (has 1 ½ right now). He has two Lieutenants that should be training for the Chief position.
- The K9 cost was added to the patrolmen salaries. Advisory did not receive a copy of the Police Department detail budget; Chief Wall will have it sent to Advisory.
- Chief Wall said vehicle maintenance is the big one; last year he budgeted \$71,000. As of January 24, 2018 he has spent \$46,700. He said if the DPW get someone to provide vehicle maintenance it would reduce the cost. He works with Sunoco; they do a lot of work for us, are convenient and bend over backwards.
- Computer maintenance is another line item budgeted for \$35,000; looking for \$40,000. The monthly security fee which protects against viruses is expensive to cover 20 computers and servers. His computer system is not tied to the town network for security reasons; he has spent \$33,000 to date.
- He is short \$26,000 for his Training line item budgeting \$120,000. Linda asked about opioid use; Chief Wall said it's not as bad as last year, but still not good.
- His OT spent last year was \$596,000. He wants to use it better by trying to plan ahead.
- He currently leases a motorcycle which is used by only one police officer. There are about 5,000 – 7,000 miles on the motorcycle. He also has bicycles, which has been tremendous; more than half the department have been trained. He also has two electric bicycles. These are very effective. The town has 2,000 acres of open space that can be accessed by using these bicycles.
- He said at some point the roof of the police building will have to be replaced.
- Stephen Curley said it's getting tough to give the police what they want with a \$600,000 deficit. Over the past ten years police and fire budgets combined have gone up 4% and the town is trying to keep up with this (lack of revenue). The state aid only went up by 0.64% this year; 0.50% in prior years. Lottery aid is 1.7M this year. Healthcare increased by 5%. Linda said part of the problem is the employee cost for healthcare is less than other towns.

<sup>1</sup>The Chairperson did not vote on these motion.

Stephen Curley said we would need to cut someone in order to give Public Safety what they need. Chief Wall said it should have been done ten years ago. The state recalculated town aid about seven years ago and it has decreased substantially. Linda said the town needs more commercial business.

- Chief Wall said he did not include ammunition as a separate line item. He usually waits until end of year to purchase. John Brown asked how much this costs; Chief Wall said about \$9,700. Linda asked if officers are using the Tasers. Chief Wall said not that often; 2-3 times a quarter but it's a tremendous tool to have. Stephen Curley asked if the Special officers are used to fill in. Chief Wall said yes; they are trained and do work. Do officers have a physical assessment? Chief Wall said yes, only upon hire.
- John Brown asked if he has completed an assessment for damages from the recent storms. Chief Wall said yes, a generator gas valve in the road which will be replaced. The front door of the station blew out and the "police" sign blew over. Emergency Management purchased food for the shelter. Kris Frasier is collecting this information for submission to FEMA. The town ran out of cones, barrels and caution tape. The town lost 350 telephone poles; Pembroke has about 2,200 poles in town.
- Maria Karas asked about overtime and how the two additional officers will impact that. Chief Wall said it won't. He needs to increase the number of officers on the road; still at the same overtime level. He noted that the town has 24,000 square miles to cover. Maria asked if there is a lot of work that is clerical; Chief Wall said no. Maria said in 2011 same population on average with 26 officers. In 2018 what has changed? Chief Wall said the population has increased by about 2,000. The amount of time and type of calls and the kind of work has changed. He referenced a "Section 12 call" and the amount of time it takes one officer to process; up to 2-3 hours. He said people call the cops for everything and his department gets about 15,000 calls a year; 360 a week; 30 a shift. They're involved with the Plymouth County Outreach drop in center in Plymouth and go there every week so officers are armed with information. His officers also do house visits with clinicians which gives families hope. Maria asked if he has any data on opioid use. Chief Wall has last years' results which he can send to her. Pembroke is down but a long way from 0.

Advisory thank Chief Wall for coming.

Linda discussed the Meal Tax issue on stores that serve ready-to-eat foods and if they need to be registered as a restaurant. Some of the stores discussed were Cumberland Farms, Stop & Shop, 7-Eleven. This may be lost revenue for Pembroke. The committee agreed to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen to ask if they know the regulations for stores serving over the counter prepared foods and if they need to register as restaurant to charge the meal tax.

John Brown is not available for next week's meeting but asked if Advisory could ask Ed Thorne and Mike Buckley about Article 3 of the Special Town Meeting so it includes the other named storms from March. Riley is the only one referenced. The other storms were named "Quinn" and "Skyler".

The next Advisory meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 2, 2018 at 6:30PM.

Advisory adjourned at 8:51PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Curley, Clerk

<sup>1</sup>The Chairperson did not vote on these motion.