

TOWN OF PEMBROKE  
MASSACHUSETTS

APPROVED  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
17 February 2015

Chairperson Linda Peterson opened the meeting of the Advisory Committee in Pembroke Town Hall at 7:20 PM on 17 February 2015. Also present were Stephen Curley, James McCollum, Anthony O'Brien and Stephen Walsh. Timothy Brennan arrived at 7:30PM. Rachel Michael was absent.

The Committee met with Mark Gould, Advisory Committee member candidate. The committee asked why he was interested in joining the committee. Mark explained he moved around a lot for work but has now been a resident of Pembroke for four years. He is interested in what is going on and wants the best for the Town. Mark explained he is currently completing his degree in mathematics, is married with two children. He is not a registered voter but will get registered this week.

Upon motion made by James McCollum and seconded by Anthony O'Brien following the discussion, it was

**VOTED<sup>1</sup>:** To approve the appointment of Mark Gould as a member of the Advisory Committee. He agreed to register as a voter before confirmation with the Board of Selectmen. Stephen Curley, Timothy Brennan and Stephen Walsh supported the motion.

Linda Peterson, Chairperson was contacted by Suzanne Scroggins, School Committee member to let the committee know that there may be a presence of parents attending the 23 February 2015 Advisory Committee budget meeting with the School Department. She offered the use of their meeting room at North Pembroke School. Suzanne indicated that approximately 40 parents have attended their School Committee meetings recently. Following the discussion, the Committee will not change meeting rooms for their 23 February 2015 meeting.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the permanent change of Town Hall hours for Monday's. The Town Hall will now be open from 8:30AM – 7:00PM.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the email from Ed Thorne, Town Administrator, noting that the Board of Selectmen voted to open the Warrant for Annual Town Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2015. The deadline for submitting articles for this warrant will be 4:30PM on Friday, February 27, 2015.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the December Advisory Committee Financial Report.

Upon motion made by James McCollum and seconded by Stephen Curley following the discussion, it was

**VOTED<sup>1</sup>:** To accept the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2015 as amended. Timothy Brennan, Stephen Walsh and Anthony O'Brien supported the motion.

Ed Thorne, Town Administrator, met with the committee to review his FY16 budget. Also present were Selectmen members Michelle Burt and Daniel Trabucco. Ed noted there was a 1.1 million dollar increase in revenue and new growth was down. This data is based on information received from the Assessor's office. The

budget is balanced to the penny. Health Insurance line item was discussed. Ed noted that the Mayflower meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 19, 2015 and he would know more then.

Dan Trabucco, Chairperson, Board of Selectmen noted that Ed Thorne submitted his budget to the Board of Selectmen but it was not discussed; they were waiting until after presenting to Advisory Committee.

The committee asked Ed if the Department Heads and School Department has seen his budget and what was their reaction. Ed noted they were not happy. The committee asked about the Council on Aging budget and the progress on filling the Director role. Ed said they are on their third round of advertising and accepting applications. The Board of Selectmen interviewed three candidates from the first round, one applicant dropped out, another declined the position and the third didn't want the position. The second round, there was one qualified applicant but the Board of Selectmen wanted to see a broader pool of candidates to interview, so they placed another ad.

The Committee also discussed the budgets for Animal Control, Community Center and Solid Waste. The detailed budget for Solid Waste was not distributed; Ed will send to the Committee via email. This budget will be less than FY15. He noted that residents are recycling and curbside recycling has increased from 22% to 29%. The Recycling Center is currently opened one day a week at the request of the Board of Selectmen. Resident's annual trash bill is \$200 with \$100 covering the landfill debt and \$100 for trash clean-up. Town pays \$32 per recycle bin and each bin has a number on the container which is also listed on the trash bill. If a home is sold, the recycle bin stays with the residence. If it is removed, it will cost the homeowner \$100.

The Committee asked about the GATRA bus and if that money could be used for something else. Ed said yes, the money is part of the general revenue fund. Buses and maintenance are free to the town. They are discussing the possibility of a fixed bus route through town stopping at each housing authority complex. It currently costs \$1.00 to ride the bus.

There being no further discussion the Committee adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Curley, Clerk