

TOWN OF PEMBROKE
APPROVED
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
01 JUNE 2015

Chairperson Linda Peterson opened the meeting of the Advisory Committee in Pembroke Town Hall at 7:30 PM on 01 June 2015. Also present were Stephen Curley, James McCollum, Stephen Walsh and Richard Mc Manus. Anthony O'Brien arrived at 7:32PM.

Timothy Brennan, Mark Gould and Rachel Michael were absent.

Linda noted the email from Anthony O'Brien dated May 31, 2015 regarding his decision not to renew his term as Advisory Committee member. His term will end on June 30, 2015.

The committee reviewed and discussed the email from Advisory Committee member, Timothy Brennan regarding his recent experience with the DPW. He was not able to get his questions answered after repeatedly calling the DPW office. When he got their voicemail, he was unable to leave a message as the mailbox was full. The committee's recommendation would be for Tim to forward his email to the DPW Commissioners and copy the Board of Selectmen. The committee noted that one of the DOR recommendations was to disengage the DPW Commissioners and have DPW report to the Board of Selectmen.

The committee reviewed the following correspondence:

- Memo from the Board of Selectmen: reorganization of The School Committee, The Planning Board, The Board of Health and the Advisory Committee.
- Memo from the Board of Selectmen announcing their summer schedule.
- Memo from Ed Thorne, Town Administrator notice of Department Head Meeting scheduled for June 5, 2015 @ 10:00AM.
- Memo from Ed Thorne, Town Administrator regarding the recently adopted Mileage Reimbursement Policy and the Mileage Reimbursement Form.
- Reserve Fund Balance as of 6/1/15 - \$47,937.00

The committee reviewed and discussed memo from Michael Buckley, Town Accountant asking for approval of the transfer of \$3,200 from the Short Term Interest line item to the Inspectional Services Department General Expense line item per the provisions of Section 33B of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Upon motion made by Stephen Curley and 2nd by James McCollum following the discussion, it was

VOTED¹: To approve transfer of \$3,200 from the Short Term Interest line item to the Inspectional Services Department General Expense line item per the provisions of Section 33B of the Massachusetts General Laws. Anthony O'Brien, Stephen Walsh and Richard McManus supported the vote.

The committee reviewed and discussed the Request for Transfer from the Reserve Fund from The Board of Selectmen for one week of vacation buyback in the amount of \$902.63. This was never budgeted in the accountant or solid waste budget.

Upon motion made by Stephen Curley and 2nd by Anthony O'Brien following the discussion, it was

VOTED²: To approve the Request for Transfer from the Reserve Fund from The Board of Selectmen's office for one week of vacation buyback in the amount of \$902.63. James McCollum, Stephen Walsh and Richard McManus supported the vote.

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

VOTED: To accept the minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2015. Linda Peterson, Stephen Curley supported the motion. Stephen Walsh and Richard McManus abstained.

The committee reviewed and discussed the Snow Removal Report that that was forwarded to Advisory Committee from Ed Thorne, Town Administrator. This report that lists cost per mile for snow removal for 2015 shows the cost for Pembroke was \$731,000. There are questions as to the accuracy of this report as it only includes numbers received by February 26, 2015 and Pembroke may have underreported. One question asked was how many towns are using outside contractors for snow removal. Stephen Curley noted that the DOR website lists snow and ice deficits for all towns. This Snow Removal Report may be a good starting point to begin tracking this information for Pembroke.

The committee agreed to send an email to the Board of Selectmen asking for an update on the following topics:

1. Status of DOR recommendations
2. The final copy of the Final Auditors Report
3. Updated copy of the Snow Removal Report
4. Status of IT Policy

Jim McCollum noted that the town was hoodwinked with the prop 2 ½ override. He said you can't print information on election ballot prior to Town Meeting. It has to pass Town Meeting and then voted at the ballot box. Stephen Curley noted that the Board of Selectmen voted to put it on the ballot and in the event that Town Meeting passes something, the Board of Selectmen has a certain amount of time to put it on the ballot. The Board of Selectmen could veto it if they want. Prop 2 ½ authorizes increase in taxation but would not take place unless Town Meeting approved. We still have to perform both. Jim noted that was not the understanding he had. Steve Curley noted that taxes would only go up for what we spend Town Meeting is the spending authority. Jim also noted that there was no indication on the prop 2 ½ question that it was an override. Verbiage was lawful but deceitful by state law. The explanation on town website indicated a permanent tax increase. There was no balanced presentation. It was presented by the school committee and parents. No reminders from Town.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Curley, Clerk