

**Advisory Committee**  
**January 28, 2015**  
**Felix Juliani Meeting Room, Town Hall**

Andy Patten called the meeting of the Wellesley Advisory Committee to order at 6:45 p.m. Those present included Mary Crown, Thomas Engels, Chad Harris, John Hartnett, John Hussey, Lucy Kapples, Michael Mastrianni, Frank Pinto, Ann Rappaport, Sara Raveret, Mason Smith, Scott Tarbox and Kathleen Woodward.

Citizen Speak

No one wished to speak at this time.

School Budget Update

John Hussey provided the budget update. He advised a growing base in salaries and special education costs were impacting level service, as well as contract and COLA increases. The budget recognizes increases of 2% in steps and lanes, 2.25% increases in COLA, base increase of 1% and contract settlement of 2%. Salaries are 88% of the overall budget.

Enrollments have been decreasing in elementary grades, but the Town is seeing an increase in the High School. They anticipate this trend to continue in future years.

Special Education salaries and expenses are volatile as population changes from year-to-year. The amount of budget offsets such as circuit breaker reimbursements vary each year as well which impacts the final budgetary numbers.

FY16 projected base increase is 4.8% currently and a review of proposed reductions are still being discussed. The School Committee is reviewing three scenarios of 4.5%, 5.2% and 5.9% but are still seeking to maintain level service. He stated the budget would be voted on Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> by the School Committee and then a presentation would be made to Advisory.

BOS FY16 Operating/Capital Budgets

Hans Larsen, Executive Director and Barbara Searle, Chair of the Board of Selectmen presented the budgets. The FY16 Operating Budget request is \$22,386,637 of which personal services accounts for \$16,401,629 and expenses of \$5,985,008. The budget is comprised as follows: General and Financial Services \$2,832,937; Maintenance \$7,002,242; Human Services \$730,624; BOS Shared \$1,144,780; BOS Appointed Committees \$70,754; General Government \$10,981,337; Public Safety \$11,405,300.

FY16 Capital Budget reflects the following: capital debt \$1,909,486; debt service (issued inside levy) \$2,423,407; debt service (new inside levy) \$1,750,000; debt service (issued outside levy) \$8,928,301; debt service (new outside levy) \$3,875,047; debt service (CPA supported) \$580,000. Employee benefits including retirement, unemployment compensation and workers

compensation is \$27,307,924. Special items include property tax abatements of \$650,000 and State and County Assessments of \$1,195,300. Non-tax impact items are \$621,670.

Health insurance increases are anticipated to be 9% for active employees and 2.5% for retiree plans. The Town is reviewing moving to another insurance plan which could possibly see a savings of up to \$3 million per year. The earliest the Town could change would be July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2016. Discussions with unions would need to be implemented before any change could be made.

The following departments were highlighted during the presentation:

#### Council on Aging (COA)

Miguel Lessing, Board of Directors and Gayle Thieme, Director of Senior Services gave the overview. John Schuler of the Board of Directors was also in attendance. The COA currently has 6.1 employees. The budget reflects the addition of an Assistant Senior Administrator and a part time assistant activities coordinator. The FY16 Operating Budget reflects an increase in tax impact. Personal Services request is for \$324,039 which recognizes grant offsets of \$53,432; expenses of \$159,948 and full time position benefits of \$40,000 for total of \$523,987 which is an increase of \$161,360 or 44.50% from FY15.

The COA advised that program offerings had grown 63% from last year. They are requesting the additional funding to organize more efficiently and continue to offset costs by grants and gifts and volunteers.

#### Facilities Maintenance Department

Joe McDonough, Facilities Director provided the FMD budget review. The FY16 Operating Budget recognizes a 5.21% increase due to COLA increases, net salary increases and a new position request for a 0.5 FTE Office Assistant. Personal Services request for FY16 is \$3,820,514 and expenses are \$3,181,728 with 64.8 FTE's for a total of \$7,002,242. Expenses reflect an increase of 8.91% due to a 7% electricity increase, 14% natural gas increase, 6% sewage increase and a FMD office lease of \$70,000.

#### Police

Chief Terry Cunningham and Deputy Chief F. Jack Pilecki gave the review. They were accompanied by Lieutenant Marie Cleary. Receipts from fees and charges are anticipated to be \$218,466 for FY16. They are anticipating some monies from grants and gifts, but the 911 grant (\$21,900) is in jeopardy. The Operating Budget requests \$5,114,258 for Personal Services and expenses of \$636,494 for a total FY16 request of \$5,750,752. There are 58.0 FTEs which is level from FY15.

#### Fire

Chief Richard DeLorie and Assistant Chief Jeffrey Petersen gave the budget overview. Receipts from permits and master boxes are anticipated at \$80,900. The FY16 Operating Budget request for Personal Services is \$4,789,829 with expenses at \$262,749 for a total tax impact of \$5,052,578. There are 57 FTE's which remains level with previous years. This request is within the 2.25% budget goal established, but that cuts were made in training to achieve this level. Union contracts will expire in 2017. The Department is currently looking at using resources to move from fire suppression to fire administration.

#### Approval of Minutes

Lucy Kapples made a friendly amendment to change the language of the minutes to reflect Chuck Flaherty as Consultant. There were no objections. Mason Smith also made a change to a date due for final drafts of the Advisory Report with no objections. Mason made a motion to approve the minutes of January 21, 2015 as amended. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

#### Liaison Reports

Due to time constraints, no reports were given at this time.

#### New Business/Old Business

The calendar was reviewed and dates assigned for various departments to make their budget presentations. Advisory Public Hearing for the Annual Town Meeting will be on February 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 p.m.

The Advisory Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. on February 4, 2015 in the Juliani Room of Town Hall.

Mr. Patten adjourned the meeting at 10:22 p.m. with no objections.