

**Advisory Committee**  
**April 29, 2015**  
**Felix Juliani Meeting Room, Town Hall**

Andy Patten called the meeting of the Wellesley Advisory Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. Those present included Mary Crown, Thomas Engels, Tom Frisardi, Chad Harris, John Hartnett, 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.

Annual Town Meeting Debrief

The Chair asked for Advisory member input regarding the past year and the recently held Annual Town Meeting, as well as the Special Town Meetings held earlier in the session. Hans Larsen, Executive Director was present. He was accompanied by Barbara Searle, Ellen Gibbs, David Murphy, Marjorie Freiman and Jack Morgan from the Board of Selectmen.

Article 8 - Budget

Overall, most members thought the budget was received well by the Town Meeting members, especially since it was balanced. Most felt there was less discussion this year than in previous years. Advisory recognized the effort and due diligence performed to have a balanced budget presented.

Advisory acknowledged the budget process was late due to having to address the North 40 acquisition during the Special Town Meeting in January in addition to having a Special Town Meeting in the fall. Some members felt additional committee presentations would have been beneficial to fully vet some items of concern and possibly allow more extended public discussion.

Advisory would like to see more clarification of reasoning of budget increases from boards and committees. They did appreciate the presentation given earlier in the year on the Town Wide Financial Plan and the Sources and Uses and felt it helped guide them in the budgetary process. They also feel any discussion about an override needs to be done by September.

Hans suggested that each board/committee/department start with the “big picture” first before looking at details. He feels they should be accountable for submitting yearly plans. The BOS feels there needs to be more parameters instituted such as having all new positions vetted first by HR by December 1<sup>st</sup> each year or it is not presented in ATM. Capital projects should be pretty well set by December 31<sup>st</sup> each year. Barbara mentioned that all budgets, according to the Bylaws, need to be completed 90 days prior to the ATM or no later than January 31<sup>st</sup> each year.

Several departments will be in contract negotiations next year which will delay some budgetary figures, but most departments go ahead and budget a working figure when presenting their final budgets. However, this will be a concern next year.

The BOS does have concerns regarding using Free Cash to balance the budget and remain anxious that this will continue in the future. A discussion was held regarding the setting of the guidelines and how it was transferred from Advisory to BOS several years ago. Advisory and BOS feel more dialogue needs to be done prior to setting the guidelines.

#### Supplemental Budget – School Security and Snow/Ice Removal

Several members of Advisory felt a FAQs on supplemental requests would be very helpful. There continues to be concern that SPED be broken out from the regular School budget and done as a supplement since the costs are directed by statute and varies from year-to-year depending on enrollment.

#### Projects – PAWS, School Security, and Hunnewell Field Track and Playing Field

The BOS felt it was somewhat troubling that the Schools took so long to agree to support the field. They did feel that the questions submitted by Advisory with regard to the school security project were beneficial to clarify issues. All felt time constraints did not allow for a full vetting of the projects. Again, all felt that having projects fully vetted by December 31<sup>st</sup> before being presented at ATM would alleviate some of the problems.

#### Fall Special Town Meeting

Advisory was concerned about what items merit having a STM. Barbara Searle, Chair of BOS stated there were some items already slated for a Fall STM tentatively scheduled for November 2 including the Town Government Study Committee presentation as well as school security and zoning items which were removed from the ATM.

#### Orientation of New Advisory Members

The Chair recognized there was very little orientation done this year due to the Special Town Meeting time constraints. Some members felt the liaison assignments should be reviewed and some smaller boards/committees/departments may not need to have a liaison. Some of the larger boards may need to have more than one liaison. It was also noted that attendance for all meetings may not be necessary especially if agenda items are not dealing with budgetary issues. Some felt it might be wise to shuffle liaisons from year-to-year. It was noted that some boards are meeting in the morning which makes it very difficult for those liaisons with full-time jobs and other commitments. It was suggested that there might be some liaisons-at-large which could rotate as needed.

#### Report Book

The Chair asked for feedback from Town Meeting members regarding the report book. The shortened School report was received well. Also, it appeared to work well to not supply new binders, but to instead ask members to place the new inserts in their binder from last year.

Discussion followed regarding the editing of the report which has been done by Ann Rappaport over the past three years. She is transitioning off Advisory this year. Consensus was to hire someone to help with the editing of the book next year. Dropbox continues to be well received by Advisory members.

### Approval of Minutes

Mason Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of March 31, 2015, April 6, 2015 and April 7, 2015 in omnibus fashion. The motion was seconded and the minutes from the three meetings were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

### Liaison Reports

The Chair asked for liaison reports and some members of the Advisory Committee provided a short report.

### Calendar Review

Advisory has been invited to attend the Town Wide Government Study meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Any members wishing to attend should contact Kathy Nagle.

The annual Advisory season end get together will be held at Andy Patten's house on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

### New Business/Old Business

The Chair announced a committee is being formed to develop process guidelines for Town projects. They would like to have Advisory participate. Sara Raveret and Frank Pinto agreed to represent Advisory on the committee.

The Advisory Committee will meet in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on June 10, 2015 in the Juliani Room of Town Hall.

Mr. Patten adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m. with no objections.