

**Advisory Committee  
October 14, 2015  
Felix Juliani Meeting Room, Town Hall**

Tom Frisardi called the meeting of the Wellesley Advisory Committee to order at 7:00pm. Those present included Mary Crown, Tom Fitzgibbons, Chad Harris, John Hartnett, Mike Hluchyj, Mark Kaplan, Michael Matrianni, Frank Pinto, Alena Poirier, Sara Raveret, Mason Smith, Ria Stolle, Scott Tarbox, and Kathleen Woodward.

**7:00 Citizen's Speak**

Tom Frisardi recognized Catherine Johnson, a Town Meeting Member and the Vice Chair of the Planning Board. Catherine asked to speak to the AC as an "individual," not as a representative of the Planning Board. She supports the idea and the grouping of the land use boards, but has concerns about the language of the motion, bylaws and special act. She raised concerns that as a built-out town, the permitting process in Wellesley is complex, and a Town Manager form of government with a land use director may not work well with the permitting process and the various levels of communication around the permitting process.

**7:15 Advisory Committee Discussion of Special Town Meeting Warrant and Vote on Motions**

Article 2. Board of Selectmen (BOS) Motion to Retire Bond Anticipation Notes

Sara Raveret made a motion that Advisory recommend favorable action on Warrant Article 2, to see if the Town will appropriate \$1,469,000 to permanently retire bond anticipation notes originally issued on June 15, 2015, to pay costs of various capital projects.

**Disposition: The motion was seconded by Mason Smith and carried by a show of hands, 12-0.**

Article 8. BOS Executive Search

Sara Raveret made a motion that Advisory recommend favorable action on Warrant Article 8, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, \$35,000 to be expended under the direction of the BOS, for the cost of conducting a search for a Town Manager or Executive Director of General Government Services; or take any other action in relation thereto.

**Disposition: The motion was seconded by Mason Smith and carried by a show of hands, 12-0.**

Article 9. School Security

Discussion:

The estimate is a 100%-designer estimate. One Advisory member questioned whether the security measures would be used consistently over the long term, and if not, whether the measures are cost-effective. A second member questioned whether alternative considerations

have been fully considered and that the cost appears to be excessive. Another member added that other benchmark communities aren't implementing the same measures.

A member supporting the measure pointed out that three schools already have more comprehensive security measures, raising a parity issue. This member also argued for measuring against state standards for safety and not against benchmark towns.

Sara Raveret made a motion that Advisory recommend favorable action on Warrant Article 9, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, \$2,454,374 to be expended under the direction of the PBC, for construction, reconstruction, remodeling, rehabilitation or modernization of School District buildings, structures, and land area including necessary site work, and for any other services in connection therewith, to enhance security throughout the Wellesley Public School District; or take any other action in relation thereto.

**Disposition: The motion was seconded by Mason Smith and carried by a show of hands, 11-3.**

#### Article 10. BOS Motion for Police Station Repairs.

The measure will be taken up at the meeting on Saturday.

#### Article 7. Board of Public Works (BPW) Study to Establish a Five-member Committee Appointed by the Moderator.

Discussion:

Advisory approves of the study and looking at options to streamline operations. The \$10,000 is for a consultant. There was a question on why it is problematic that benchmark towns don't have public works boards, but the board itself has questioned whether its current structure is effective. One member questioned why we need to study a structure that currently works well for the town.

Sara Raveret made a motion that Advisory recommend favorable action on Warrant Article 7, to see if the Town will vote to establish a five-member committee to be appointed by the Moderator to be known as the "BPW Study Committee;" to direct the Committee to review and make findings and recommendations on the ongoing functions of the DPW and the role and composition of the Board of Public Works; the composition and appointing authority of the MLP Board; and whether the responsibility for water, storm water, sewer, electric services should be consolidated into a new Public Utilities Department or otherwise transferred; and to see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide for such Committee to take any action in relation thereto.

**Disposition: The motion was seconded by Mason Smith and carried by a show of hands, 13-1.**

#### Article 3.A: a Motion to Authorize the BOS Passage of a Special Law to Move to a Town Manager Form of Government

Discussion:

The summary should read “a majority” of advisory members support the motion. The language should reflect that a minority supports the motion for a Town Manager but have reservations about all boards being included under the Town Manager position.

Room should be left on the 10/28 meeting agenda for any possible amendments. The library and the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) have made good cases against inclusions; the NRC was formed to be an independent organization and should function as such. Four boards don't agree with inclusion under the Town Manger: the Library Trustees, Board of Health, NRC, and Recreation Department. The motions to carve out would occur in the context of Article 3.A.

There was discussion whether it is appropriate for Advisory to include language in the Report on the positive effect that moving to a town manager form of government will have on Advisory. Advisory members would be more likely to serve consecutive terms if the committee's workload was lightened, and a Town Manger would enforce deadlines and strengthen the budget process. There are currently no amendments; voting favorably does not prevent members from voting on a carve-out later. The language of the Report should reflect that some board members support carve-outs.

Sara Raveret made a motion that Advisory recommend favorable action on Warrant Article 3.A, to see if the Town will vote to authorize the BOS, on behalf of the Town, to petition the General Court for passage of a special law substantially as provided in the Warrant, Article 3.A.

**Disposition: The motion was seconded by Mason Smith and carried by a show of hands, 9-5.**

#### Article 3.B: to Adopt Changes in Article 19 of the Town Bylaw

Discussion:

The Article amends Article 19, if Article 3.A passes. If there are amendments to 3.A, there will be amendments to 3.B.

Sara Raveret made a motion that Advisory recommend favorable action on Warrant Article 3.B, to see if the Town will vote to amend Article 19, Board of Selectmen, of the General Bylaws, as authorized by such Special Act.

**Disposition: The motion was seconded by Mason Smith and carried by a show of hands, 14-0.**

#### Article 3.C, Amend Town Bylaws Art. 20 – Town Manager

Sara Raveret made a motion that Advisory recommend favorable action on Warrant Article 3.C, to see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws by deleting Article 20.

**Disposition: The motion was seconded by Mason Smith and carried by a show of hands, 9-5.**

#### Article 4.A, Amend Town Bylaws to Implement Town Manager Authority

Discussion:

The process could be in place even if boards are carved out; the Town Manger would not advance their budget if he or she does not approve it, but would have to provide an explanation. The board's recourse would be to go to Advisory.

Sara Raveret made a motion that Advisory recommend favorable action on Warrant Article 4.A, to see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws by adding a new Article 6A entitled, "Budget Provisions."

**Disposition: The motion was seconded by Mason Smith and carried by a show of hands, 14-0.**

Article 4.B Amend Town Bylaws to Conform to STM Articles 3.A and 3.C

Sara Raveret made a motion that Advisory recommend favorable action on Warrant Article 4.B, to see if the Town will vote to amend certain appointment provisions throughout the General Bylaws to provide for appointments by the Town Manager, as authorized by the Special Act to be requested pursuant to Warrant Article 3.

**Disposition: The motion was seconded by Mason Smith and carried by a show of hands, 9-5.**

Article 4.C Amend Town Bylaws Art. 30 – Human Resources and Art. 31 – Classification and Salary

Discussion:

There was discussion on realigning the responsibilities of the HR board with the Town Manager.

Sara Raveret made a motion that Advisory recommend favorable action on Warrant Article 4.C, to see if the Town will vote to amend Articles 30, Human Resources Board, and 31, Classification and Salary Plans, of the General Bylaws to establish the roles of the Town Manager.

**Disposition: The motion was seconded by Mason Smith and carried by a show of hands, 14-0.**

Article 4.D Amend General Bylaws to Provide for Appointed Town Clerk

Discussion:

There were concerns from several members about the Town Clerk being appointed versus elected and accountability.

Sara Raveret made a motion that Advisory recommend favorable action on Warrant Article 4.D, to see if the Town will vote to amend certain provisions throughout the General Bylaws to provide for appointment of the Town Clerk pursuant to the Special Act to be requested pursuant to Warrant Article 3, to require that the BOS fix the date for Annual Town Meeting by November 15 of the preceding year, and to make other miscellaneous changes to Town Government in accordance with such Special Act.

**Disposition: The motion was seconded by Mason Smith and carried by a show of hands, 9-5.**

Article 6: Proposal to Create a Planning and Land Management Division (PLMD)

Discussion:

There were concerns regarding the independence of the boards to be included, particularly the NRC. Some members felt the motion is lacking in detail regarding the authority of the Deputy Director. There was discussion whether the motion would carry if the word "board" were deleted. If the Special Act does not go forward, there will be a lack of definition regarding the Deputy Director position.

Sara Raveret made a motion that Advisory recommend favorable action on Warrant Article 6, to see if the Town will vote to authorize the BOS to create a new administrative division known as the "Planning and Land Management Division" and to appoint a Deputy Town Manager or Deputy Director of General Government Services to serve as the Director of said Division.

**Disposition: The motion was seconded by Mason Smith and carried by a show of hands, 8-6.**

Article 10: Police Roof

Discussion:

There was discussion on whether Advisory could vote not to exceed \$100,000. If the vote needs to be rescinded for any reason, that vote can be made.

Sara Raveret made a motion that Advisory recommend favorable action on Warrant Article 10, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, \$100,000, to be expended under the direction of the PBC, for the cost for engineering services, for preparation of plans and specifications and preparation of bid documents, for roofing and building envelope repairs; or take any other action in relation thereto.

**Disposition: The motion was seconded by Mason Smith and carried by a show of hands, 14-0.**

10:00            **Liaison Reports**

Hardy/Hunnewell/Upham: There are concerns and feedback, particularly on traffic and enrollment predictability. There is a meeting on Wednesday for town-wide community input.

10:00            **Adjournment**

Mary Crown made and Mason Smith seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Frisardi adjourned the meeting at 10:10 PM with no objections.

Future meetings:

- October 21: Agenda open. Advisory report is mailed.
- October 28: Agenda open.