

Advisory Committee
March 12, 2014
Felix Juliani Meeting Room, Town Hall

Marjorie Freiman called the meeting of the Wellesley Advisory Committee to order at 7:30 p.m. Those present included Robert Capozzi, Mary Crown, Becky Epstein, Tom Frisardi, Ann Marie Gross, John Hussey, Lucy Kapples, Andy Patten, Ann Rappaport, Deb Robi, and Mason Smith.

Citizen Speak

No one wished to speak at this time.

Discussions and Votes on ATM Warrant Articles

Initial voting was completed on several of the articles with those members present. Lucy Kapples was present later in the meeting. Ann Marie Gross made a motion to revote the items that had already been voted to include Lucy's vote. There were no objections. A motion to rescind and revote was then done on several of the items as seen in the minutes.

Article 2 – TWFP

This Article seeks Town Meeting approval to receive the Five-Year Capital Plan and Town Wide Financial Plan. Each board and department submits detailed information for capital requests for the upcoming year and requirements for the following four fiscal years for review by the BOS. Projects may be discussed over multiple years and may or may not be funded. The projects are categorized by funding source – cash capital, other sources of funding, debt financed inside the tax levy, and debt exclusion. Advisory does not vote on this item, but does make a recommendation. Discussion of Sources and Uses followed. Boards will be asked to make longer- term projections next year.

Ann Rappaport made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on Article 2. Deb Robi seconded the motion.

Disposition:

Motion was approved on Article 2 by a show of hands, 11 to 0.

Lucy Kapples made a motion to rescind the previous vote on Article 2. Ann Rappaport seconded the motion.

Disposition:

Previous vote on Article 2 was rescinded by a show of hands, 12 to 0.

Lucy Kapples made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on Article 2. Ann Rappaport seconded the motion.

Disposition:

Favorable action was recommended on Article 2 by a show of hands, 12 to 0.

Article 7, Motion 2 – 2014 Budget

This Motion would approve the transfer of funds from the PBC's budget to the MLP. Previous funding was approved in 2010 and 2011 for design and construction of the MLP building. The building was completed in July 2013 and PBC is requesting authorization to transfer the unspent funds of \$252,031.05 back to the MLP.

Lucy Kapples made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on Article 7, Motion 2. Ann Rappaport seconded the motion.

Disposition:

Favorable action was recommended on Article 7, Motion 2 by a show of hands, 12 to 0.

Article 8 – Omnibus Budget

Motion 1 authorizes the Town to accept a \$1 million payment from the Municipal Light Plant in FY15 as approved by the MLP Board. The Board of Assessors must receive annual authorization to incorporate these funds from the MLP into the tax rate.

Ann Rappaport made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on Article 8, Motion 1. Deb Robi seconded the motion.

Disposition:

Favorable action was recommended on Article 8, Motion 1 by a show of hands, 11 to 0.

Lucy Kapples made a motion to rescind the previous vote on Article 8, Motion 1. Ann Rappaport seconded the motion.

Disposition:

Previous vote on Article 8, Motion 1 was rescinded by a show of hands, 12 to 0.

Lucy Kapples made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on Article 8, Motion 1. Ann Rappaport seconded the motion.

Disposition:

Favorable action was recommended on Article 8, Motion 1 by a show of hands, 12 to 0.

Motion 2 seeks appropriation of the funds to the respective boards and departments. This appropriation represents the material portion of spending in the FY15 budget, including operating budgets for all departments, cash capital spending, and debt service.

Ann Rappaport made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on Article 8, Motion 2. Deb Robi seconded the motion.

Disposition:

Favorable action was recommended on Article 8, Motion 2 by a show of hands, 9 to 2.

Lucy Kapples made a motion to rescind the previous vote on Article 8, Motion 2. Ann Rappaport seconded the motion.

Disposition:

Previous vote on Article 8, Motion 1 was rescinded by a show of hands, 12 to 0.

Members discussed their positions on this Motion of the Omnibus budget. Concerns about the uncontrollable costs, the outstanding contract settlements, the services expected by citizens and the need to find creative solutions to avoid a similar situation next year were discussed. Some members believe that opportunities for spending reductions are missed in some budget development. There is no incentive to reduce unnecessary spending; inertia and the mindset to keep doing things the way that they have always been done seems entrenched. Our tax revenues are increasing more than inflation yet our cost to provide services is more than our revenue intake. Controlling unnecessary costs is important in order to provide the services that citizen really want.

Lucy Kapples made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on Article 8, Motion 2. Ann Rappaport seconded the motion.

Disposition:

Favorable action was recommended on Article 8, Motion 2 by a show of hands, 10 to 2.

Motion 3 appropriates Free Cash to balance the tax-impact budget. The Department of Revenue has specifically requested the Town add this motion when Free Cash is used to balance the budget.

Ann Rappaport made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on Article 8, Motion 3. Deb Robi seconded the motion.

Disposition:

Favorable action was recommended on Article 8, Motion 3 by a show of hands, 11 to 0.

Lucy Kapples made a motion to rescind the previous vote on Article 8, Motion 3. Ann Rappaport seconded the motion.

Disposition:

Previous vote on Article 8, Motion 3 was rescinded by a show of hands, 12 to 0.

Lucy Kapples made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on Article 8, Motion 3. Ann Rappaport seconded the motion.

Disposition:

Favorable action was recommended on Article 8, Motion 3 by a show of hands, 12 to 0.

Article 16 – Facilities Projects (No Vote)

This Article requests authorization to appropriate an amount, soon to be determined, to the Permanent Building Committee for the total cost (including construction, soft costs and contingency fees) of following the projects: Police Station HVAC, Fire Department HVAC, Fire Station flooring, Wellesley Middle School entrance and auditorium seating, Warren Building repairs, Hunnewell School roof and Sprague School roof and plaza. Funding will come from short-term borrowing inside the levy.

Advisory will make a recommendation on this item at Town Meeting when the amount is known.

Article 34 – Registered Marijuana Dispensaries Zoning Amendment

This Article seeks approval to amend the Zoning Bylaw to allow Registered Marijuana Dispensaries (RMDs) to be located in commercial, administrative and professional districts in the Town, subject to issuance of a special permit by the Board of Selectmen. It excludes RMDs from non-profit activities permitted in Single Residence Districts and certain other zoning districts in the Town

Lucy Kapples made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on Article 34. Ann Rappaport seconded the motion.

Disposition:

Favorable action was recommended on Article 34 by a show of hands, 12 to 0.

STM Article 2 – 494 Washington Street

This Article seeks approval to purchase the property at 494 Washington Street for \$1,365,000 to expand the amount of useable space at the adjacent property at 496 Washington Street which is the proposed location for the Tolles-Parsons Center. If approved, the BOS will borrow funds under the levy limit and then likely roll the amount into the debt exclusion planned for late 2014.

Ann Rappaport made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on STM Article 2. Deb Robi seconded the motion.

Disposition:

Favorable action was recommended on STM Article 2 by a show of hands, 11 to 0.

Lucy Kapples made a motion to rescind the previous vote on STM Article 2. Ann Rappaport seconded the motion.

Disposition:

Previous vote on STM Article 2 was rescinded by a show of hands, 12 to 0.

Lucy Kapples made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on STM Article 2. Ann Rappaport seconded the motion.

Disposition:

Favorable action was recommended on STM Article 2 by a show of hands, 12 to 0.

STM Article 3 – Bylaw Amendment (Sale of Wine and Beer)

This Article seeks to amend the Town Bylaws Article 19, BOS, Section 19.19, Licensing Board, by adding a provision to grant licenses for the sale of wine and malt beverages, not to be drunk on the premises, as authorized in c.14 of the Acts of 2014. The licenses shall be limited to not more than 3 food stores and not more than 3 specialty food stores. This amendment would mean that any future decision to sell wine and beer to stores other than those that sell food (*i.e.*, package stores) would require more than an amendment to regulations; it would necessitate another change in the Town Bylaw.

Lucy Kapples made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on STM Article 3. Ann Rappaport seconded the motion.

Disposition:

Favorable action was recommended on STM Article 3 by a show of hands, 12 to 0.

Advisory Report Progress

Ann Rappaport reported that the Advisory Report was in good shape for the Annual Town Meeting. There is still some information needed on the Special Town Meeting articles. The report will be back from the printer on March 20th and mailed on the 21st to allow Town Meeting members to have two weekends to review as requested by the Town Meeting Moderator. The report will be collated on Friday, March 21st at 8:30 a.m. in the Juliani Room at Town Hall.

Approval of Minutes

No minutes were submitted for approval at this time.

Liaison Reports

The Chair asked for liaison reports and various members of the Advisory Committee provided their reports.

Calendar Review

Town Affairs Night will be held at the Wellesley Club on March 17th.

Advisory will meet Wednesday, March 19th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Juliani Room of Town Hall.

New Business/Old Business

The Chair announced Article 24 has been removed from the Article 3, Consent Agenda. Article 3 is being amended to remove Article 24 and adding Article 11 and Article 12.

Lucy Kapples made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on Article 3 as amended. Ann Rappaport seconded the motion.

Disposition:

Favorable action was recommended on Article 3 as amended by a show of hands, 12 to 0.

Ms. Freiman adjourned the meeting at 9:59 p.m. with no objections.