

**Advisory Committee
Meeting
October 27 2010
Juliani Room, Town Hall**

Steve Simons called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and immediately held a public hearing on the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting of December 6, 2010, the minutes of which were taken by the Secretary and submitted separately but are incorporated by reference in these minutes. Upon completion of the public hearing, the meeting continued. In addition to Mr. Simons, those present for the continuation of the meeting after the public hearing also included Catherine Johnson, Maura Murphy, Jack Haley, Caren Parker, Virginia Ferko, Laura Hockett, Philip Licari, Richard Page, Polly Smith, Derek Redgate, Barbara McMahon, David Murphy, and Jason Whittet. Rick Hill was absent.

Minutes. Upon a motion made by Ms. Ferko and seconded by Ms. Parker, the minutes of October 6, 2010 and October 20, 2010 were approved as corrected. The vote was 13-0.

STM Warrant Article 7 Presentation. Hans Larsen, Executive Director of General Government Services described Article 7, which calls for an appropriation of funds for roadway improvements near 27 Washington Street, including a traffic light at Glen Road and Washington Streets, which could be reimbursed through a Massachusetts Opportunity Relocation and Expansion (MORE) Grant. Mr. Larsen explained that the Town has partnered with National Development, the 27 Washington Street project developer, to apply for the \$575,000 grant. If the grant is awarded, the Town will bid the work, National Development will serve as project manager and National Development will also make a \$100,000 payment to the Town. In response to a question from Mr. Licari, Mr. Larsen said there is a negotiated agreement that specifies that the Town will be indemnified by National Development for costs that exceed the grant. In response to a question from Ms. Ferko, Mr. Larsen said that if the grant is not awarded, National Development is required by the Project of Significant Impact (PSI) permit to install the roadway improvements. In response to a question from Ms. Hockett, Mr. Larsen said that the \$100,000 payment to the Town is the result of negotiations with National Development. In response to a question from Mr. Haley, Mr. Larsen said that he does not know of any comparable markets for linkage payments related to MORE grants

Presentation from Ad Hoc Town Wide Financial Plan (TWFP) Committee on Final Report to Selectmen. TWFP Committee Members Tim McMurrich, Marlene Allen, Peter Cory and Rusty Kellogg presented details of their report to the Selectmen. The report calls for a more robust long- range planning process through recommendations that include a planning horizon of up to five years; emphasis on a collaborative inter-board budgeting process; assigning responsibility for budget guidelines to the Selectmen through the TWFP; and having Town Meeting vote on the TWFP. Following the presentation, Advisory Members posed extensive questions and voiced concerns that included the viability of the process in Wellesley's decentralized form of government, including a "buy-in" from all boards; the challenges of long-term forecasting before contracts are negotiated; and implications for the Annual Town Meeting. Advisory Members were asked to direct additional questions and comments to Mr. Corey and Mr. McMurrich.

Presentation of Article 5 Supplement to FY11 Budget for Council of Aging (COA). Selectman Terri Tsagaris and Hans Larsen spoke to the proposed appropriation of \$26,300 for cleaning services for the Wellesley Community Center (WCC) from November 2 to June 30, 2011 to continue COA programs at the WCC. The COA moved out of the building in August after continued problems with cleanliness. The Selectmen have agreed to pay a portion of the building's cleaning costs under a Memorandum of Understanding with the WCC, and a professional cleaning service contract is under review. In response to a question from Mr. Simons, Mr. Larsen said that this would be an appropriation from free cash. Ms. Hockett

asked about repercussions if funds are not appropriated, and Mr. Larsen noted that the temporary COA staff relocation to Town Hall has meant that seniors no longer have ready access to staff, and the loss of dedicated space has impacted programming. Ms. Tsagaris stated that the proposed appropriation is to deal solely with the cleanliness problem and should not be construed as a decision not to pursue a free-standing senior center or other options to the use of the WCC.

Announcements. Mr. Simons said that Advisory would not meet on Saturday, Oct. 30, and Ms. Parker updated members on additional changes in the meeting schedule. Ms. Ferko distributed guidelines for Article write-ups and the following assignments were made or confirmed: Article 3 Ms. Smith and Mr. Hill; Article 4: Mr. Haley; Article 5: Ms. Murphy 9 (library) and Ms. Parker (COA); Article 6: Ms. Murphy; Article 7: Ms. Ferko; and Article 8, Mr. Simons. Ms. Ferko also reported on a state meeting of finance committees, which included a presentation on the open meeting law.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Murphy reported that only two Municipal Light Plan (MLP) employees are currently considering the MLP's proposed Early Retirement Plan. Ms. Murphy reported that the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is rebidding its contract for the Clock Tower Restoration Project, and the deadline for bids is November 14th. Ms. McMahan said that Schools will vote on the capital budget on November 9th.

Discussion of STM Warrant Articles. In a brief discussion of Article 8 regarding a printing bill for the Town Clerk, it was stated that any appropriation would come from free cash. In a discussion of Article 7 for roadway improvements near 27 Washington Street, Mr. Licari said that because of the indemnification for costs above monies received through the MORE grant, the appropriation appears risk-free, and Ms. McMahan noted that the planned traffic light at Glen Road will benefit the Town. Speaking to Article 6 for allocating additional CPA funds for the Clock Tower Project, Ms. Parker stated that the project is supported by private groups, and it was the sense of the members to support this appropriation. Ms. Murphy said that the proposed supplemental appropriation for the library in Article 5 was needed to pay for costs associated with the Inter-Library Loan Program and that a presentation on this Article would be made by the Library Trustees at next week's meeting. A review of the COA supplemental appropriation included a discussion on expectations for the WCC's cleaning and maintenance costs. In reviewing Article 3 regarding the MLP Early Retirement Program, there was a discussion of the net cash cost or benefit to the town. Mr. Licari stated that the MLP program incentivizes MLP management to create a more efficient work force, and Mr. Whittet said that carrying out this program is a reflection of prudent management. Cost control issues were raised in a discussion of the middle school renovation project (Article 4).

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jack Haley and seconded by Phil Licari. The Committee then voted 12-0 to adjourn the meeting (Mr. Redgate was not present for the vote).

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Davis
Administrative Assistant

Documents Distributed: Report to the Board of Selectmen from Town- Wide Financial Plan Committee; Revised Advisory Schedule; Article 5 Special Town Meeting Advisory Presentation; Guidelines for Write-ups for Advisory Report for 2010 STM; Style sheet for Write-Ups.