

**Advisory Committee  
Meeting  
January 19, 2011, 7 p.m.  
Juliani Room, Town Hall**

Jack Haley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those present included Rick Hill, Steve Simons, Caren Parker, Virginia Ferko, Catherine Johnson, Jason Whittet, Maura Murphy, Laura Hockett, Philip Licari, Richard Page, Polly Smith, Derek Redgate, David Murphy, and Barbara McMahon (arriving at 7:30 p.m.).

Mr. Haley announced that the Wellesley Cable Station would record the meeting, and the recording of the proceedings began at 7:15 p.m.

**Citizen Speak.** No one present spoke.

**Library Operating Budget.** Guests Library Board Chair Amanda Henshon and Director Janice Coduri presented the Library FY12 budget of \$2,119,253, which meets the Advisory Budget Guideline, but falls \$7,500 short of the amount needed to demonstrate State mandated library budget increases. Ms. Henshon spoke to the ramifications of possible State decertification and stated that Library Trustees may seek a placeholder at the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) to deal with this issue. The Library collected over \$75,000 in fines, which go to the General Fund, and they plan to increase fines. Advisory discussed the decertification issue with the Library and possible courses of action.

**Fuller Brook Park Project.** Fuller Brook Park Coordinating Committee (FBPCC) Chair Neal Seaborn and Consultant Lauren Meier of Pressley Associates presented recommendations to restore the 2.5mile long park, which include: installing a 6' wide path with 3' grass shoulders; streamcourse restoration; removing hazardous trees; and controlling invasive plants. The most costly recommendations involved streamcourse issues: removing concrete curbing and sedimentation from sections of the Fuller Brook. Estimates for design and permitting were \$769,008 and construction and implementation were over \$5.5M. Advisory Members questioned maintenance costs, as well as risks of not implementing the recommendations. Advisory also questioned CPC Members in attendance regarding use of CPA funds for various stages of the project.

**Break.** Advisory adjourned for a short break at 8:45 p.m. and reconvened at 8:55 p.m.

**Update of Town Meeting Presentation Guidance from Moderator's Meeting.** Advisory members discussed the introduction of the new TWFP process to the Annual Town Meeting, and Ms. McMahon stated that guidelines for the appropriate level of free cash for the Town to retain as reserves should be part of the discussion.

**Snow Removal.** Guest Executive Director of Government Hans Larsen and DPW Director Mike Pakstis briefly discussed the snow removal budget, and stated that the Selectmen approved an additional \$300,000 in funds for snow removal. After a motion made by Mr. Simons and seconded by Ms. McMahon, Advisory Members voted to approve the expenditure of \$300,000 in additional funds as needed for snow and ice removal. The vote was 14-0.

**Board of Selectmen (BOS) Budget Presentation.** Guests BOS Chair Katherine Babson and Mr. Larsen presented the FY2012 Operating Budgets for departments under the jurisdiction of the Selectmen, which totaled \$13,914,303. In aggregate, these budgets reflect a 1.47% increase which is under the Advisory Guidelines. Ms. Babson also presented finances of non-department budgets that fall under the Selectmen, including capital and debt, as well as shared costs and special items, with a combined FY12 tax impact total of \$52,763,913. This represents a 7.79% increase over FY2011, which she attributed largely to pension fund contributions and increases in health insurance costs, and Mr. Larsen discussed initiatives to control the rise in health insurance costs. Advisory asked for additional information on estimated costs for union contracts still open, the possibility of institution (college) contributions to the General Fund, the potential for other revenue sources and some questions regarding technical budget variances with the TWFP. Senior Deputy Director Chris Ketchum presented the Facilities Maintenance Budget and a new property management model that is being implemented, which includes hiring a director and assistant director. Advisory asked for a quantitative review of the costs versus benefits of the new model.

**Liaison Reports.** Barbara McMahon stated that the School's proposed gap list is posted and Schools have yet to present costs for opening the new high school. Mr. Haley said that the BOS will have a warrant article placeholder involving STTI.

**Adjournment.** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Price. The Committee then voted to adjourn the meeting. The vote was 14-0.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Davis  
Administrative Assistant

Documents Distributed: Library FY2012 Budget Overview; Fuller Brook Park Preservation Project, Executive Summary, Phase 2 Preliminary Design Report.