

**Advisory Committee  
Meeting  
January 22, 2011, 8 a.m.  
Kingsbury Room, Police Station**

Jack Haley called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Those present included Rick Hill, Steve Simons, Caren Parker, Virginia Ferko, Catherine Johnson, Maura Murphy, Laura Hockett, Philip Licari, Richard Page, Polly Smith, David Murphy, and Barbara McMahon. Derek Redgate and Jason Whittet were absent.

**Citizen Speak.**

Jessica Dormitzer of 39 Wingate Road spoke to urge, at minimum, level service funding for schools.

Susan Ryan TMM from Precinct E urged the town to fully consider its priorities relative to capital projects that are on the table and to address the rising fees and contributions required of school parents and PTOs.

Rick Lifszitz of precinct D expressed concern about the budget process and retained reserves and said that without overrides, cuts in spending will impact the quality of the schools.

Stephanie Albertson questioned the assumption that all town departments should be treated equally in the budget and said that only schools are contemplating layoffs.

Jason Glashow of Brookfield Road questioned the town's priorities as it considers expenditure for the DPW facility and asked if fees for municipal services could help close the budget gap.

Julianne Ivey of Glenn Rd said that a 1 ½ % across the board budget guideline for all departments and non-STTI schools does not result in cuts for other departments, as it does for schools.

Dario Fauza of 19 Boulder Road spoke in opposition to school budget cuts.

Carlos Gimeno of Beverly Road provided a series of statistics concerning the relative declining quality of Wellesley schools and in opposition to school budget cuts that, he said, would continue to reduce the quality of education.

Jim Miller of Pine Street spoke in favor of an override instead of school budget cuts.

Julia Fantasia of Lawrence Road expressed concern about the budget process and urged modification of the process.

Jeff Brooks of Riverdale Road spoke in opposition to school budget cuts.

Meredith Lepper of Ashmont Road questioned the capital project expenditures on the table in light of school operating budget cuts.

Gina Cohen of Washington Street stated that budget cuts over the past few years have been chipping away school quality since there have been no overrides in recent years.

Sunny Allen of Leighton Road commented on the quality of our schools. She sees great value in them, but also notes depreciation and advocates more investment in schools.

Kelly Friendly urges a slowdown in the budget process and no further cuts. She expressed concern about the impact on teacher morale.

Sylvia Griffiths of Whittier Rd said there was a lack of creativity in budget cuts.

Sam Frank of Chesterton Rd spoke in opposition to school budget cuts.

Alec Murray of Sturbridge Rd proposed that parent community be given the opportunity to engage in budget discussions over time and said that schools should build on success.

**DPW FY12 Operating Budget Presentation.** Board of Public Works Chair Paul Criswell and Director Mike Pakstis presented the DPW's FY 12 operating budget. A slide presentation and handout were provided. Mr. Criswell noted that the number of full-time DPW employees has decreased from 134 in FY1970 to 90 in FY2011. The capacity to fund the first year of a labor contract has been built into the budget. Ms. Hockett asked if there were plans to bump up the annual winter maintenance budget to more accurately reflect the annual cost of snow and ice removal. Mr. Criswell said that the best way to budget for ice and snow removal is being discussed and no final decision has been made. There was a discussion about the current level of DPW fees and potential for new revenue sources and the status of a benchmarking study, which has not yet been completed.

**DPW FY12 Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund Budget Presentation:** Board of Public Works Chair Paul Criswell and Director Mike Pakstis presented the Water and Sewer Fund FY 12 operating budget. A slide presentation and handout were provided. The main driver of this operating budget is MWRA rates. There is an ongoing project to reduce the amount of water that infiltrates into the sewer system, generating unnecessary sewer charges. There was a discussion about access to Morses Pond and the security of the water facility there.

**DPW FY12 Capital Projects Presentation:** Board of Public Works Chair Paul Criswell and Director Mike Pakstis presented information about borrowing for a proposed recycled materials structure at the RDF, reconstruction of Kingsbury Road and replacement of a restroom/maintenance storage facility at Hunnewell Field. A slide presentation and handout were provided. The DPW expects a \$50,000 annual return on investment in the recycled materials facility, which is expected to increase capacity to recycle more kinds of material at a lower cost. The Kingsbury Road project would probably be completed in the summer of 2012. The restroom storage facility would be replaced by a modular structure. Information about usage of the bathroom facility was not available from the DPW.

**DPW Office Building:** Ms Smith distributed a memo and, along with Mr. Hill, outlined some of the factors that support funding for the new building and some questions remaining. Mr. Criswell said that bids for the project are due on February 24.

**Community Preservation Committee's FY 12 Projects and Long Term Plan.** Jack Morgan, Chair of CPC and Dona Kemp, member of Wellesley Housing Development Corporation (WHDC) addressed the CPC's expected request for town meeting authorization, which will include the annual 10% mandatory reserve transfers for Open Space, Historic Resources and Community Housing and a transfer of \$450,000 to the WHDC so that it has the capacity to maintain affordable units by exercising its right to buy back units that may go on the market. A handout outlining the presentation concerning

the WHDC request was provided. Ms. Kemp also provided information about three WHDC affordable units currently on the market. A draft of the CPC's FY11-15 Financial Plan and a summary of CPC Project Status as of December 31, 2010 were distributed and discussed. There was a discussion of projects on the horizon for which CPC funds may be requested, specifically the acquisition of St. James and the Fuller Brook Park. Mr. Morgan stated that the CPC has some questions about the plans for management of the Fuller Brook project, about the timing and a preference to have bids in hand for the next phase before authorizing expenditures. There is no motion expected on St. James at 2011 ATM. Other projects on the horizon may include electrical substation exterior work.

**Liaison Reports and Announcements.** The Open Meeting Law regarding Citizen Speak and document presentation was discussed and Ms. Ferko agreed to review and report.

**Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Ferko  
Secretary

Meeting Documents: Outlines of presentations by the Board of Public Works re: DPW Operating Budget for Tax Impact Programs FY 2012; Water & Sewer Enterprise Funds Budget for FY2012; proposed recycled materials structure at the RDF; reconstruction of Kingsbury Road; and replacement of a restroom/maintenance storage facility at Hunnewell Field; A memo entitled "DPW Operations Building" distributed by Ms. Smith and Mr. Hill; WHDC Request for Community Preservation Funding presentation outline; Flyer advertising 3 WHDC affordable housing units; CPC Project Status as of December 31, 2010; draft copy of Wellesley CPA Financial Plan for FY11 –FY15, Elements of a Complete Review in Preparation for Advisory Report and Presentations, list of 2011 ATM Warrant Articles.

Distributed but not discussed: Wellesley Public Schools FY12 Recommended Budgets, Operating, Special Tuitions, Transportation and Inclusion, presented December 7, 2010; Presentation handout from January 18, 2011 School Committee Meeting, Potential FY 12 Budget Reductions; and an accompanying memo from KC Kato Re: FY12 Budget materials