

**Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 16, 2011, 7:30 PM
Juliani Room, Town Hall**

Jack Haley called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Those present included Caren Parker, Virginia Ferko, Catherine Johnson, Jason Whittet, Maura Murphy, Laura Hockett, Philip Licari, Richard Page, Polly Smith, Derek Redgate (arriving at 8:41 PM), Barbara McMahon, Steve Simons and Rick Hill. David Murphy was absent.

Mr. Haley announced that the Wellesley Cable Station was broadcasting the meeting.

Citizen Speak

Susan Ryan of 50 Madison Road expressed concern that the Schools are being asked to shoulder the brunt of cuts to close the budget deficit, which she said should be funded through free cash. The cost of Special Education, she added, should be borne by the entire Town.

David Himmelberger of 387 Linden Street said that he will seek a resolution at Town Meeting to form an ad hoc committee with the aim of centralizing the Town's facilities maintenance programs, and he hopes that Advisory would support this effort.

Allison Allen of 48 Leighton Road said the Town should close the budget gap through free cash or an override and should not pressure the Schools to cut their budget. She also said that the entire Town should be responsible for Special Education costs.

Trina Foster of One Fletcher Road urged that the Town utilize free cash to close the deficit and that any programmatic cuts to the Schools should be discussed through a broad and thoughtful process.

DPW Building and Article 19 Discussion and Vote

Guests DPW Chair Paul Criswell, Vice Chair Bill Charlton, Secretary David Donahue, Director Mike Pakstis, Town Engineer Steve Fader and PBC Chair Mike Eby reported that they received aggressive bids and favorable pricing on the proposed DPW building. They also emphasized that they tried to develop an asset for the Town that will be utilized by the Town, and they had an extensive conversation with Advisory regarding the history and design of the proposed building. Following the discussion, Ms. Smith moved that the Advisory Committee recommend favorable action on the motion expected under Article 19 of the Warrant for the Operations Building for the DPW at a cost of \$3.6M. Mr. Hill seconded the motion, which was approved by a vote of 11-1.

On behalf of Advisory, Mr. Haley thanked Mr. Fader, who is retiring, for his years of service. Mr. Pakstis also reported that the DPW voted to ask for no motion on Article 21 regarding a restroom facility and maintenance storage structure at Hunnewell Field.

Article 20 Discussion and Vote

Ms. Smith led a discussion that centered on the economics of the proposed recycling materials structure. After the discussion, Ms. Smith moved that the Advisory Committee recommend favorable action on the motion expected under Article 20 of the Warrant for the recycled materials loading structure at a cost of \$400,000. Mr. Hill seconded the motion, which was approved by a vote of 10-2.

Snow and Ice Removal Appropriation

Mr. Pakstis reported on snow and ice removal costs to date. Ms. Ferko moved that the Advisory Committee approve the expenditure of an additional \$150,000 by the DPW for snow and ice removal, in excess of the FY2011 appropriation. Mr. Licari seconded the motion, which was approved by a vote of 12-0

Article 7 Discussion and Vote

Ms. Ferko moved that the Advisory Committee recommend favorable action on the motion expected under Article 7 of the Warrant. There was a brief discussion of the Article which involves funding winter maintenance through free cash. Ms. McMahon seconded the motion, which was approved by a vote of 13-0.

Article 19 Rescind and Revote

Ms. Smith moved that Advisory rescind and revote Article 19, and Mr. Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 12-0. Ms. Smith moved that the Advisory Committee recommend favorable action on the motion expected under Article 19 of the Warrant for the Operations Building for the DPW. Mr. Hill seconded the motion, which was approved by a vote of 12-1.

Article 14 Discussion and Vote

There was a brief discussion of Article 14, which has three motions regarding separate revolving funds. Ms. Parker moved that the Advisory Committee recommend favorable action on Motion # 1 expected under Article 14 of the Warrant. Mr. Simons seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 13-0. Ms. Parker moved that the Advisory Committee recommend favorable action on Motion # 2 expected under Article 14 of the Warrant. Mr. Simons seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 13-0. Ms. Parker moved that the Advisory Committee recommend favorable action on Motion # 3 expected under Article 14 of the Warrant. Mr. Simons seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 13-0.

Break

Advisory took a short break at 9:11 PM and reconvened at 9:17 PM.

Article 34 Discussion and Vote

Ms. Ferko led a discussion of Article 34, which would create a new zoning bylaw regarding preserving trees on private property. After the discussion, Ms. Ferko moved that the Advisory Committee recommend favorable action on the motion expected under Article 34 of the Warrant. Ms. Smith seconded the motion, which was approved by a vote of 7-6.

Article 8 Discussion

Members discussed the schedule for voting their recommendation on Article 8, and Ms. McMahon reported on a number of program and non-programmatic changes that the School Committee is considering, as well as circuit breaker reimbursements and other still unknown factors that could narrow the budget gap.

Updates

After a brief discussion, it was the sense of the members to post to the Advisory website a consolidated letter that includes the School's response to Advisory's request for financial information.

Adjournment

Ms. McMahon moved that Advisory adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 13-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Davis
Administrative Assistant

Documents: Wellesley DPW Operations Bldg – Site and Building Improvements; Consolidated “Letter to School Committee,” dated February 19, 2011 and “Response Memo”; Tree Protection and Preservation Bylaw Draft.