

**Advisory Committee**  
**January 4, 2012**  
**Felix Juliani Meeting Room, Town Hall**

Virginia Ferko called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Those present also included Robert Capozzi, Rebecca Epstein, Marjorie Freiman, Ann Marie Gross, Jack Haley, Laura Hockett, Catherine Johnson, Philip Licari, David Murphy, Maura Murphy, Richard Page, Derek Redgate, Deborah Robi, and Richard Woerner.

Citizens Speak

None

Assessors Operating Budget

Donna McCabe, Chief Assessor presented the Board of Assessors FY13 Operating Budget Request which totals \$324,667.

Ms. McCabe also updated the Advisory Committee on the progress of the Sun Life abatement application and informed the committee that the appraiser retained by the Board of Assessors had appraised the property at slightly more than the assessment. Based on this finding, the Board plans to continue to defend its assessment.

There was discussion regarding whether the Board of Assessors should include in its annual operating budgets a contingency for possible appeals rather than seeking additional funds from the Advisory Reserve Fund when appeals arise. The FY13 budget includes funds for retaining outside appraisers to assist in appeals, based on the fact that there are several large appeals pending, including Linden Square, St. James and the Alzheimer's Hospital.

Ms. McCabe also updated the Advisory Committee regarding the status of existing PILOT agreements.

Questions from the Advisory Committee were addressed.

Town Clerk Operating Budget

Kathleen Nagle, Town Clerk, presented the Town Clerk FY 13 Operating Budget Request which totals \$299,002, which is an increase of 10.51% over FY12. Ms. Nagle explained that her budget is driven almost entirely by the number of elections in any year and that with three elections expected in FY13, the budget is significantly increased over FY12.

Questions from the Advisory Committee were addressed.

#### Advisory Operating Budget

Ms. Ferko presented a proposed FY13 Operating Budget for the Advisory Committee, which totals \$22,782, the same as FY12. In addition, there is a request for \$175,000 to fund the Advisory Committee Reserve Fund for unforeseen expenses. Following discussion, upon motion made by Maura Murphy and seconded by Laura Hockett, the budget was approved 14 to 0.

#### ATM Warrant

Ms. Ferko reviewed the current warrant articles and confirmed which Advisory Committee member is responsible for each warrant article.

The Advisory Committee discussed the need to understand how the amount of the MLP contribution to the town is determined.

The Advisory Committee also discussed the need for an agreement between the Board of Selectman and the Library Trustees regarding the funding of capital expenditures for the branch libraries.

#### Liaison Reports

Mr. Woerner informed the Advisory Committee that members of the Retirement Board were being required to attend continuing education classes and that there had been some discussion as to whether they should receive a stipend as compensation for these additional requirements. It was suggested that they pursue a waiver of the requirements.

Members of the Schools Subcommittee updated the Advisory Committee on the progress of the School Department Operating Budget. They reported that Peter De Roeve, Interim Business Manager, was close to completing his review and reconciliation of the FY12 Budget, after which he could prepare the FY13 budget. Although it might not be possible for him to provide all the information the Schools Subcommittee requested, the Subcommittee expects much more clarity and transparency than in the past.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20.

Documents: Agenda, Assessor Department FY13 Operating Budget Request, Town Clerk FY13 Operating Budget Request, Advisory Committee FY13 Operating Budget

Request, Board of Selectman Presentation Slides entitled Town of Wellesley Town-Wide Financial Plan, January 3, 2012.