

**Advisory Committee Meeting
January 18, 2012
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, Laura Hockett, Catherine Johnson, Philip Licari, David Murphy, Maura Murphy, Deborah Robi, Richard Woerner, and Jack Haley. Richard Page and Derek Redgate were absent.

Citizen Speak

None

Municipal Light Plant (MLP) Operating Budget

Thomas Peisch, MLP Chair, Richard Joyce, MLP Director, Debra Healy, MLP Business Manager, and Bill Charlton and Dave Donohue, MLP Board Members presented. Using PowerPoint slides, Mr. Peisch reviewed the MLP's FY13 Operating Budget including an overview of the MLP structure. This is a non- tax impact budget and is user fee based. The MLP is cutting costs where it can and the budget is slightly lower than last year's.

Questions from the committee were addressed.

Human Resources (HR) Operating Budget

Susan Hurwitz, HR chair, Susan Adler, HR Director, and Philip Laughlin, Kindy Blatchford and Nancy Saperstone, HR Board Members presented. The HR Board distributed a document which gave an introduction to the HR Board and department. The HR Board presented its FY13 department budget, which was slightly lower than last year. The HR Board also presented its expected warrant articles which are: (i) changes to the classification plan, including reclassifications and title changes; (ii) changes to the salary plan for pay changes, including a 2% increase for 40 Series employees and the creation of a merit pay pool for 50 Series employees; and (iii) a change to the salary plan regarding benefits, namely a reduction in the period for three weeks of vacation from 5 years to 3 years.

Questions from the board were addressed.

Reserve Fund Transfer- Hills Library Chimney Phase One (including stabilization)

Ann Howley, Library Trustees Chair, Beth Sullivan Woods, Library Trustees Vice Chair, Hans Larsen, Town Executive Director and Terri Tsagaris, Board of Selectmen (BOS) Vice Chair presented. The BOS and the Library Trustees requested a transfer in the amount of \$20,000 to stabilize the chimney at the Wellesley Hills Branch Library for the winter and a second transfer of \$10,000 for redesign costs.

The first request of \$20,000 is for Phase 1 of repair work for stabilization of the chimney. The cost of Phase 1 is \$35,000, comprised of \$5,000 for engineering design, \$20,000 for the actual work, and \$5,000 for the Permanent Building Committee (PBC) administrative cost and required contingency. The Library Trustees are contributing \$15,000 toward the cost.

The BOS and the Library Trustees made a second request for \$10,000 to do a study of what will be required to complete the repair. While this second expense could wait until Town Meeting, the BOS and Library Trustees believe that it would be helpful to have a sense of what the project will cost prior to Town Meeting. The BOS and the Library Trustees also reported that, on the recommendation of the PBC, they are seeking bids for a building envelope study.

Questions from the board were addressed. Some members of the Advisory Committee expressed concern about spending any more money than is immediately necessary before having a better understanding of how any repairs would be funded.

Upon a motion made by Maura Murphy and seconded by Laura Hockett, the Advisory Committee voted 11-1 to approve a \$20,000 transfer from the Advisory Committee Reserve Fund to stabilize the chimney at the Wellesley Hills Branch Library.

Upon a motion made by Maura Murphy and seconded by Laura Hockett, the Advisory Committee voted 8-4 to approve a \$10,000 transfer from the Advisory Committee Reserve Fund for a design study for completing repair of Wellesley Hills Branch Chimney.

Board of Health (BOH) Operating Budget

Shepard Cohen, BOH Chair, Leonard Izzo, Director of Public Health, and Marcia Testa Simpson, BOH Vice Chair presented. The BOH presented its proposed budget, which is level funded.

Questions from the committee were addressed

There was discussion regarding opportunities for combining resources with other towns. Ms. Testa Simpson reported that the Department had looked into regionalization but concluded that it would not be a benefit to Wellesley, because Wellesley would likely provide more services than it would receive.

Recreation Commission Operating Budget

Jan Kasetta, Recreation Director, Andy Wrobel, Recreation Chair, Mark Antonelli, Recreation Vice Chair, and Jim Conlon, Recreation Board Member presented. Mr. Antonelli gave an overview of the Recreation Department and its programs. He then detailed a few highlights of the tax impact portion of the budget, which is slightly lower than last year due to lower utility costs. There was a discussion about the Recreation Commission's capacity to increase revenue.

Questions from the committee were addressed. In particular, the committee requested additional information regarding opportunities for cooperation between the Recreation Department and other town departments.

Liaison & Subcommittee Updates

Mr. Licari gave an update of the status of the School Department Budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30pm

Documents: Agenda, MLP Operating Budget PowerPoint, Status of Library Chimney & Reserve Fund request, Reserve Fund Transfer History, Wellesley Health Department Permit Revenue. Introduction to Human Resources Board and Department, Human Resources Budget PowerPoint, Recreation Department PowerPoint, Recreation Department Program Summary. Meeting Minutes: 01/04/12, 12/14/11, 12/7/11, 11/30/11, and 11/09/11.