

Advisory Committee
February 13, 2013
Felix Juliani Meeting Room, Town Hall

David Murphy called the meeting of the Wellesley Advisory Committee to order at 7:30 p.m. Those present included Tom Engles, Becky Epstein, Marjorie Freiman, Ann-Marie Gross, John Hussey, Catherine Johnson, Lucy Kapples, Phil Licari, Andy Patten, Ann Rappaport, Deb Robi and Rich Woerner.

Bob Capozzi entered the meeting at 7:39 p.m. and Laura Hockett at 9:00 p.m.

Citizen Speak

None

Approval of Minutes

David Murphy, Chair, asked for a review of the minutes of the February 6, 2013. A motion was made by Ann-Marie Gross to approve the minutes. Laura Hockett seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Town Clerk – Operating and Capital Budgets

Kathleen Nagle, Wellesley Town Clerk gave the presentation. The budget is controlled by the number of elections scheduled per year at a cost of \$60,000 per election cycle. There is only one election next year, which will decrease expenses. There are no changes in staffing, but election equipment will be replaced beginning on a staggered basis over the next few years. New voting machines will create a \$62,000 expense for 9 new units. Software will see additional costs. The election booths will also be replaced at a cost of \$4,500 per unit spread over a period of years.

Questions were taken from the committee members.

Retiree Cost-of-Living Base Increase

David Kornwitz, Chair of the Retirement Board gave the presentation. Accrued liability for the Wellesley Retirement Plan as of 1/01/2013 is \$172,642,000. The market value of assets at the same date is \$124,436,000, which leaves an unfunded liability of \$48,206,000. Estimated market value return in calendar year of 13.88 percent provided an estimated market value gain of \$5,500,000. The scheduled fiscal year 2014 appropriation is \$5,591,000.

Retiree cost-of-living increases are currently based on increases in the Consumer Price Index up to a maximum of 3 percent annually as published by the Social Security Administration, and the increase is limited to \$12,000 of a retiree's pension. The median annual benefit is \$19,800 with an average annual benefit of \$23,200. The last cost-of-living increase in the base was in 1997 from \$9,000 to the current \$12,000. The recommendation is to raise the base to \$15,000. The majority of the Town's retirees will qualify for a cost-of-living increase of less than 3 percent. This would be equitable with other municipalities and the private sector. Raising the cost-of-living base would result in a total increase in annual benefit payments of \$24,500. The Retirement Board feels this will balance the fiduciary and fiscal responsibilities to the retirement plan membership and Town.

Questions were taken from the committee members.

Hill Branch Library Chimney Repair Update

This item was postponed until the February 27, 2013 meeting with no objections.

Reauthorization of Revolving Funds

David Murphy, Chair and Ann Rappaport lead a discussion regarding Article 13 which authorizes or reauthorizes the establishment of the revolving funds for the purpose of funding activities of certain departments of the Town. The fund balance cannot exceed 10% of the budget.

Discussion of Articles and Votes on Articles 3, 10, 11, 12, 14, 24, 45

David Murphy, Chair asked each Committee member to review the particular article they were assigned prior to the vote. Votes were taken on the following articles by a show of hands as follows:

Article 3 – *To see if the Town will vote to amend ARTICLE 31 of the Town Bylaws by making changes in Schedule A entitled “Job Classifications by Groups” which constitutes part of said Bylaws; or take any other action relative thereto.* (Human Resources Board)

Ann-Marie Gross made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on Article 3. Laura Hockett seconded the motion.

Disposition: Article 3 was recommended for favorable action by a show of hands, 13 to 0.

Article 10 – *To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, including transfer from available funds, to the Municipal Light Board for the Municipal Light Plant; or take any other action relative thereto.* (Municipal Light Board)

Ann-Marie Gross made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on Article 10. Rich Woerner seconded the motion.

Disposition: Article 10 was recommended for favorable action by a show of hands, 13 to 0.

Article 11 – *To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, including transfer from available funds, to the Board of Public Works for the Water Program; or take any other action relative thereto.* (Board of Public Works)

Ann-Marie Gross made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on Article 11. Rich Woerner seconded the motion.

Disposition: Article 11 was recommended for favorable action by a show of hands, 14 to 0.

Article 12 – *To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, including transfer from available funds, to the Board of Public Works for the Sewer Program; or take any other action relative thereto.* (Board of Public Works)

Ann-Marie Gross made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on Article 12. Rich Woerner seconded the motion.

Disposition: Article 12 was recommended for favorable action by a show of hands, 14 to 0.

Article 14 – *To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, to the Permanent Building Committee for the cost of architectural, engineering and/or other services, for construction, reconstruction, remodeling, rehabilitation and/or modernization of the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems of the Department of Public Works Park/Highway Garages; to determine whether such sum shall be raised by taxation, through borrowing and/or by transfer from available funds; or take any action relative thereto.* (Board of Public Works)

Ann-Marie Gross felt this item should be deferred until all of the bids were reviewed and those costs evaluated. Discussion followed and it was the consensus of the Advisory Committee to postpone this item until the bids had been received and evaluated by the DPW. This item will be brought back for a vote at that time.

Article 24 – *To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, to the Board of Public Works for water and/or sewer line rehabilitation; and for any equipment or services connected therewith; to determine whether such sums shall be raised by taxation, through borrowing and/or by transfer from available funds, or take any action relative thereto.* (Board of Public Works)

Ann-Marie Gross made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on Article 24. Rich Woerner seconded the motion.

Disposition: Article 24 was recommended for favorable action, by a show of hands 14 to 0.

Article 45 – *To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint one or more of their number as fire engineer; or take any other action relative thereto.* (Board of Selectmen)

Ann-Marie Gross made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on Article 45. Rich Woerner seconded the motion.

Disposition: Article 45 was recommended for favorable action, by a show of hands 14 to 0.

Liaison Reports

David Murphy, Chair, asked for liaison reports and various members of the Advisory Committee provided their reports. The upcoming calendar was reviewed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 p.m.