

Advisory Committee
April 1, 2013
Faculty Dining Room, Wellesley High School

David Murphy called the meeting of the Wellesley Advisory Committee to order at 6:30 p.m. Those present included Bob Capozzi, Becky Epstein, Ann-Marie Gross, Laura Hockett, John Hussey, Catherine Johnson, Lucy Kapples, Andy Patten, Ann Rappaport and Deb Robi.

Citizen Speak

None

Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes presented for approval.

Update and Discussion of Articles 4, 8, 14, 17, 20

The following articles were reviewed and discussed.

Article 4 – This article amends Article 31 of the Town Bylaws by making changes in the pay schedule of certain employees of the Town. A recent contract agreement has been reached with the union to adjust the salary of several of the Police staff including the sergeants and lieutenants as well as the open position of the Deputy Chief. The agreement is a two year contract through June 30, 2015. Under the agreement, base salary increases will be as follows: Sergeants 2.0% fiscal year 2014 and 2.0% fiscal year 2015; Lieutenants 1.5% each year. The contract has no steps. Also under the agreement, a provision for longevity at 10-14 years will be added as well.

Article 8 – This article will allow the appropriation of funds for the operation of several Town Departments, to provide for a Reserve Fund and to take care of extraordinary maintenance and special capital projects. Due to several changes in fees, the adjusted increase of \$13,152 has been included in the new language of motion 2. There is no longer a motion 3.

Motion 1 authorizes the Town to accept a \$1 million payment from the Municipal Light Plant (MLP) in FY14 as approved by the MLP Board. The Board of Assessors must receive annual authorization to incorporate these funds from the MLP into the tax rate.

Motion 2 seeks appropriation of the funds detailed in the exhibit shown on the following pages to the respective boards and departments. This appropriation represents the material portion of spending in the FY14 budget, including operating budgets for all departments, cash capital spending, and debt service.

THIS MOTION WAS REMOVED FOR NEW LANGUAGE.

Motion 2 (New) - “And further, to help meet said appropriations, authorize the Board of Assessors to use \$2,866,108 to be taken from Free Cash, as certified as of July 1, 2012, to reduce the fiscal year 2014 tax rate.”

Motion 3 appropriates Free Cash to reduce the tax rate. The Department of Revenue has Specifically requested the Town add this motion in the event Free Cash is used to balance the budget.

THIS MOTION WAS REMOVED.

Article 14 – This article will allow the appropriation of funds for the construction, reconstruction, remodeling or rehabilitation of the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems of the Department of Public Works Park/Highway Garages.

The Board of Public Works has awarded the construction work to T. Snowden, Inc. and the PBC has recommended the following project cost structure, which is less than the \$1 million placeholder in the *Five Year Capital Budgeting Program*: construction \$725,000, alternate HVAC temperature controls \$20,000, architect’s and other professional services (including commissioning and hazmat testing and monitoring) \$64,300, other professional services (Clerk of the Works) \$29,000, other costs (PBC Administration, PBC Expenses and Builder’s Risk Insurance) \$10,650 and 15% contingency of \$111,750 for a total of \$960, 700.

Article 17 – This article deals with the monies to be appropriated for construction, reconstruction, remodeling, rehabilitation and modernization of various school and municipal buildings. The funds for these projects would be financed through short-term borrowing under the levy and appropriated and supervised by the Permanent Building Committee. Before making a final recommendation, final cost estimates will be reviewed.

Barbara Searle, Board of Selectmen, advised construction costs on some projects will not be known at the time of the Annual Town Meeting. The Permanent Building Committee has agreed to seek approval for design costs first instead of requesting feasibility costs initially.

MOTION 1

This Motion requests the appropriation of \$771,030 to the PBC for design development of the projects listed below and to authorize the Town to fund this appropriation through borrowing.

MOTION 2

This Motion requests the appropriation of \$411,000 to the PBC for the replacement/repair of the Net telephone system and to authorize the Town to fund this appropriation through borrowing.

Article 20 – This article deals with the amount of monies the Town will raise and appropriate for renovation and repairs of the chimney at 210 Washington Street (Hills Branch Library). The consultant firm, Weston & Samson, was secured to complete a preliminary design and construction estimate on the project. The Community Preservation Committee was approached for funding based on their estimates. The Wellesley Historic Commission was also involved.

The Board of Selectmen, Library Trustees, Community Preservation Committee and Wellesley Historical Commission have all endorsed the restoration of the 210 Washington Street chimney/exterior wall to its original appearance, but without a functional fireplace. The project will repair damage to the chimney and reinforce the northeast wall.. The total project cost of the project is estimated to be \$252,250, which includes design through full construction. The funding will include \$126,125 from the Community Preservation Committee and \$126,125 from free cash.

Vote on Articles 4, 8 14, 17, 20

David Murphy, Chair asked for a vote by a show of hands on the following items as follows:

Article 4 – *To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 31 of the Town Bylaws by making changes in Schedule B entitled “Salary Plan – Pay Schedule” established under Section 31.6 which constitutes part of said Bylaws; to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide money therefor; or take any other action relative thereto.* (Human Resources Board)

MOTION 4

This article seeks Town Meeting approval to amend Article 31, Schedule B of the Town Bylaws to make changes to salary and wage schedules consistent with the collective bargaining agreement reached with the Wellesley Police Superior Officers Association (“the Union”). Schedule B sets the rates of pay for all Town employees except School Department personnel. The agreement is a two year contract through June 30, 2015.

Ann-Marie Gross made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on Motion 4, Article 4. The motion was seconded by Laura Hockett.

Disposition: Motion 4, Article 4 was recommended for favorable action by a show of hands, 10 to 0.

Article 8 – *To see what sums of money the Town will raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, including transfer from available funds, or borrowing, for the following:*

- a) *for the operation of the several Town departments, including capital outlay, maturing debt and interest, and to provide for a Reserve Fund;*
- b) *for extraordinary maintenance, special capital projects and other capital outlay items for the several Town departments;*
- c) *for such purposes as may be voted contingent upon passage by the voters of referendum questions as authorized by Section 21c (g) of Chapter 59 of the General Laws, as amended;*

and among other resources to meet said appropriations, to authorize the Board of Assessors to use any monies paid to the Town from the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant as an estimated receipt when computing the Fiscal Year 2014 Tax Rate; or take any action thereto. (Board of Selectmen)

The Advisory votes on Motions 2 and 3 given earlier (which have now been consolidated into a single Motion 2) have been rescinded as below.

Motion 2 seeks appropriation of the funds detailed in the exhibit shown on the following pages to the respective boards and departments. This appropriation represents the material portion of spending in the FY14 budget, including operating budgets for all departments, cash capital spending, and debt service.

Ann-Marie Gross made a motion that the Advisory Committee rescinds Motion 2, Article 8. The motion was seconded by Laura Hockett.

Disposition: Motion 2, Article 8 was rescinded by a show of hands, 10 to 0.

Motion 3 appropriates Free Cash to reduce the tax rate. The Department of Revenue has specifically requested the Town add this motion in the event Free Cash is used to balance the budget.

Motion 3 was combined with new Motion 2 to include the following language:

Motion 2 (NEW LANGUAGE) - "And further, to help meet said appropriations, authorize the Board of Assessors to use \$2,866,108 to be taken from Free Cash, as certified as of July 1, 2012, to reduce the fiscal year 2014 tax rate.

Ann-Marie Gross made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on Motion 2 (New), Article 8. The motion was seconded by Laura Hockett.

Disposition: Motion 2 (New), Article 8 was recommended for favorable action by a show of hands, 9 to 1.

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 other action relative thereto.* (Board of Public Works)

Ann-Marie Gross made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on Article 14. The motion was seconded by Laura Hockett.

Disposition: Article 14 was recommended for favorable action by a show of hands, 10 to 0.

Article 17 - *To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, for architectural, engineering, and/or other services, for preparation of plans and specifications, for construction, reconstruction, remodeling, rehabilitation and/or modernization of;*

a) various Schools and other Town Buildings; and

b) former Municipal Light Plant substation (1 Municipal Way) for use as Facilities Maintenance Department offices;

to determine whether such sum shall be raised by taxation, through borrowing and/or by transfer from available funds including Community Preservation Funds; or take any other action relative thereto. (Board of Selectmen/School Committee)

MOTION 1

This Motion requests the appropriation of \$771,030 to the PBC for design development of the projects listed below and to authorize the Town to fund this appropriation through borrowing.

Ann-Marie Gross made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on Motion 1, Article 17. The motion was seconded by Laura Hockett.

Disposition: Motion 1, Article 17 was recommended for favorable action by a show of hands, 10 to 0.

MOTION 2

This Motion requests the appropriation of \$411,000 to the PBC for the replacement/repair of the School Department telephone system and to authorize the Town to fund this appropriation through borrowing.

Ann-Marie Gross made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on Motion 2, Article 14. The motion was seconded by Laura Hockett.

Disposition: Motion 2, Article 14 was recommended for favorable action by a show of hands, 10 to 0.

Article 20 – *To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate , or otherwise provide, for architectural, engineering and/or other services for preparations of plans and specifications for renovation of the Hills Branch Library (210 Washington Street), including without limitation the chimney, and for the construction, reconstruction, remodeling, rehabilitation and/or modernization of the same; and for other services in connection therewith; to determine whether such sum shall be raised by taxation, through borrowing and/or by transfer from available funds including Community Preservation Funds; or take any action relative thereto. (Board of Selectmen & Board of Library Trustees)*

No vote was taken at this time on this article to allow the Board of Selectmen to review and vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.