

Advisory Committee
August 28, 2013
Felix Juliani Meeting Room, Town Hall

Marjorie Freiman called the meeting of the Wellesley Advisory Committee to order at 6:30 p.m. Those present included Bob Capozzi, Mary Crown, Thomas Engels, Tom Frisardi, John Hartnett, John Hussey, Lucy Kapples, Andy Patten, Ann Rappaport, Deb Robi, and Mason Smith.

Orientations

Ms. Freiman welcomed new and returning members to the first meeting of the term. Each member shared background information with those present. The Chair explained that the duties of Advisory members are to conduct due diligence, ask questions, and clarify proposals submitted from the various departments, and to anticipate questions that might arise at Town Meeting.

Overview of Advisory Committee

Peg Metzger, Wellesley Town Moderator, gave an overview of the role of the Advisory Committee. She explained that five new members are appointed each year to replace those members whose three-year terms are ending. They represent a cross-section of the citizens of Wellesley. They bring specific skills such as professionalism, volunteerism, open- and fair-mindedness, individual thinking and good judgment. They serve under authorization of State law and make recommendations on all Town Meeting articles or items affecting Town management. Advisory is governed under Article 11 of the Town bylaws, which gives members investigative and review powers and control of reserve funds which can be allocated on an emergency basis. Their recommendations are important but not binding.

Municipal Finance

Ms. Freiman presented a municipal finance overview including the areas of Town government, financial highlights, sources and uses statements, reserves, cash capital, debt service and capacity, revenues, expenditures and an override history. Considerations for the next year include several employee contracts which need to be negotiated, as well as unfunded liabilities in pension and health services, and facilities and capital needs. Questions were taken from the committee members.

Citizen Speak

No one wished to speak.

Approval of Minutes

There were none presented.

Retirement and Pension Update

Thomas Engels, Vice-Chair, provided an overview of the current status. Due to new actuarial figures, the Town is facing an unfunded pension liability of \$60 million, representing an increase of \$20 million over original projections. The actuarial figures were adjusted to reflect a lower

return on assets. The Town is on target to liquidate the unfunded liability portion by 2030. Questions were taken from the committee members.

Fall Calendar Review and Liaison Assignments

The Chair presented a working yearly calendar for review. There will be a Special Town Meeting beginning December 9, 2013. Ms. Freiman requested that the liaisons keep the various boards and commissions advised of the timing needed to submit requests and proposals to Advisory for review. The Chair also reviewed a listing of the various committees/boards and the assigned liaison(s).

Preliminary Discussion on Budget Guidelines

The Board of Selectmen will present the FY15 budget guidelines during their meeting on Tuesday, September 3, 2013. An Inter-Board meeting has been scheduled for September 4, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. in the Great Hall of the Town Hall to discuss these guidelines. They will review what is needed to balance the budget. All budgets will need to be submitted ninety days before the Annual Town meeting.

Articles Anticipated at Special Town Meeting in December

As of this date, there are currently nine articles anticipated: serving of alcohol in Town buildings, Cochituate Aqueduct, Council on Aging budget transfer for personnel issues, electronic voting study, adding a full-time employee to the Facilities Maintenance Department (Building Operations Liaison), retail sale of beer and wine in grocery and specialty food stores, school design funding for Schofield and Fiske, a special purpose stabilization fund for police and firemen's work-related injury claims and Town Hall renovation project funding.

Questions were taken from the committee members.

Liaison Reports

Various members of the Advisory Committee provided their liaison reports.

Announcements

There were no new announcements.

A motion was made by Lucy Kapples to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously by a show of hands. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.