

**Advisory Committee**  
**December 18, 2013**  
**Felix Juliani Meeting Room, Town Hall**

Marjorie Freiman called the meeting of the Wellesley Advisory Committee to order at 7:30 p.m. Those present included Robert Capozzi, Mary Crown, Thomas Engels, Becky Epstein, John Hartnett, John Hussey, Andy Patten, Ann Rappaport, Deb Robi, Mason Smith and Scott Tarbox.

Citizen Speak

No one wished to speak.

NRC and Morses Pond Capital Budget Presentations

Janet Hartke Bowser, NRC Director, gave the report with Heidi Gross, NRC Chair. There are three requests this year which include the public tree replacement and enhancement program of \$40,000, parks and playgrounds sidewalk and path emergency repairs and improvements of \$20,000, and Hunnewell Field porous pavement parking and lot access drive costs of \$5,500 (total of \$65,500).

Due to capital carry-over funding, there is no request for FY15 capital funding for Morses Pond. Discussion followed.

MLP Operating Budget

Owen Dugan, Jack Stewart and Katy Gibson of the Board of Commissioners, as well as Richard Joyce, Director and Debra Healy of the MLP, gave the presentation. The MLP FY15 operating budget is \$280,000 or 1% above the FY14 budget.

The budget has two components: power supply and delivery costs. Power supply costs are more than 80% of the operating costs. The cost of our power supply is \$24,312,800 of the total \$29,671,500 FY15 operating budget. Delivery costs include administrative costs, distribution and customer service fees. The MLP has tried to control these costs with success, but health insurance and pension costs continue to increase. Also, natural gas prices rise during times of heavy use. If these costs remain steady, the MLP will be able to maintain the 5% electric rate reduction which was implemented in October 2012. Discussion followed.

DPW Operating Budget

Paul Criswell, Chair of the Board of Public Works, gave the overview with Owen Dugan and Director Mike Pakstis and Assistant Director David Cohen in attendance. Staffing was reviewed; there is an expected addition of a Senior Civil Engineer position to manage the Fuller Brook Renovation Project. This position will be funded entirely by the project if it goes forward.

Personal services have increased \$8,441 which is mainly the general increase of 3% for Group 40 employees, tree stand-by emergency pay and the step increases for position changes of staff.

The board requests that Recycling Business Initiatives be maintained at the same level as FY14, or \$132,033. These funds will only be used when a profitable opportunity is recognized with resulting revenues going into the General Fund as well as any unspent funds returning to the General Fund. This program has provided over \$615,000 in revenue since its initiation in 2007.

The combined water and sewer operating budget has increased by \$38,626 or 1%, while the combined budget including MWRA, health insurance, OPEB, workers compensation and retirement and risk insurance has increased by 2.5% or \$294,707. The MWRA changes include an increase of \$200,000 for sewer and a decrease of \$20,000 for water.

The Five-Year Capital Plan for water and sewer was reviewed. The FY15 capital budget request for water is \$1,409,153 which is \$30,000 higher than projected earlier in FY 14 budget. The FY15 sewer capital budget is \$1,209,560 which is the same amount as FY14 request. Discussion followed.

### Special Town Meeting Overview/Annual Town Meeting Preview

The Chair mentioned the Special Town Meeting went very well and thanked all Advisory members for their time, dedication and hard work. With late additions to the process, we were able to include all of our recommendations in a single Advisory Report and did not have to produce any supplements. She thanked the Town Moderator for her acceptance of a later mailing date in order to complete and consolidate the work into one Report before sending it to Town Meeting Members.

In response to the Chair's request for Annual Town Meeting information, Becky Epstein reported that Schools had presented their operating budget last week and a review of the budget shows a request of \$65,161,403 for FY15. The tentative override amount is \$3,300,000.

Full- day kindergarten continues as a primary goal. Class size to teacher/teacher assistant ratio is a crucial element of future budgetary requests. Curriculum changes will also be a primary factor. Discussion followed.

The Chair presented the draft Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting. She asked that Advisory members review the report from the previous year. Assignments will be made in the near future.

### Liaison Reports

Various members of the Advisory Committee provided their liaison reports.

### Approval of Minutes

*This item was added to the agenda with no objections.*

Lucy Kapples made a motion to approve the minutes of November 20, 2013. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

Lucy Kapples made a motion to approve the minutes of November 23, 2013. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

Lucy Kapples made a motion to approve the minutes of December 4, 2013 with amended language on Article 10. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

### New Business/Old Business

There was none.

## Announcements

Ms. Freiman announced the next meeting of Advisory would be on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 in the Juliani Room of Town Hall.

Recreation is holding a holiday display contest. They are asking for input from citizens on entries.

Ms. Freiman adjourned the meeting at 10:41 p.m. with no objections.