

**Advisory Committee**  
**January 8, 2014**  
**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, Tom Frisardi, Ann Marie Gross, John Hussey, Lucy Kapples, Andy Patten, Deb Robi, Mason Smith and Scott Tarbox.

Citizen Speak

No one wished to speak.

Budget Guidelines Update

Ms. Freiman provided an overview of the budget guidelines and Town-Wide Financial Plan as presented earlier by Hans Larsen, Executive Director for the Town of Wellesley. There will be no changes in health insurance costs for the upcoming year. However, the debt service outlook remains a concern. There are several union contracts expiring at the end of the year and will have to be re-negotiated next spring. A recent audit of Town finances was very good and the auditors were pleased to see plans implemented to cover pension costs. The findings are reported in the 2013 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and can be found on the Town's website under Reports.

Recreation Department Operating Budget

Jan Maroney Kaseta, Director, and Matt Chin, Assistant Director of the Recreation Department with Andy Wrobel, Chair, and Steve Burt, Jim Conlin, Tripp Sheehan and Tom Harrington of the Recreation Commission, provided the overview. The mission to provide recreational and education opportunities was discussed including a review of the various programs, classes and activities offered in the previous year.

Participation in programs was the same from FY12 to FY13. Pond attendance was down due to the closure in June resulting in less-than-expected revenue for FY14. Some of the lost revenue was offset by an increase in fees for non-resident swimming passes. Beach attendance this summer will be a key factor. An external review of Morses Pond operations resulted in the creation of a beach safety team and analysis of the lifeguard pay and retention.

Staffing of the department remains at five permanent employees with the addition of many seasonal and part-time employees. The budget request for FY15 shows an increase of 3.51% or \$332,824 which includes the hiring of an experienced program administrator. Program revenue is estimated at \$1,548,667 for FY15 with a possible surplus of \$143,698. This anticipated amount is a 15% increase from FY14.

There were several community events offered this past year which had better-than-expected attendance including the yard sale, Halloween Parade and decorations, winter holiday decorations and the magic show. Challenges for FY15 include weather, Morses Pond attendance, competition from other activities, facility scheduling and costs and improved marketing. Sponsorships are being vigorously sought and the objective to optimize the use of Town space more effectively is a top priority. Coordination of events with other commissions and better marketing of events are also planned.

## HR Operating Budget

The budget was presented by Ilissa Povich, Chair, and Laura Hockett, Vice Chair of the Human Resources Board with Susan Adler, Human Resources Director. Staffing will remain at the same level of four full-time employees. The request for FY15 is \$298,209. A review of the three warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting were also discussed (see below in review of 2014 ATM Warrant).

## Board of Health Operating Budget

Shepard Cohen, Chair, and Marcia Testa Simonson, Vice-Chair of the Board of Health, as well as Leonard Izzo, Director, gave the presentation. A brief history and staffing overview was discussed including the new position of Community Social Worker. Major challenges with community mental health remain a concern. An evaluation of the programs provided was also given. Budget differences are insignificant from the previous year. There may be a request for a modest increase in the future due to impending retirements. Revenues from permits and fines last year totaled \$58,000 with a steady decrease in the number of fines issued.

## Liaison Reports

Various members of the Advisory Committee provided their liaison reports.

## Review and Discuss ATM Warrant

The Human Resources Board and HR Director reviewed the three Warrant Articles they will present to the 2014 Annual Town Meeting. One Article recommends amending Article 31 of the Town Bylaws to make changes in job classifications including any title changes needed. The second Article will address pay increases for Series 40 employees for a total cost of \$69,500 or 3%. Also included is a change to the mid-range of Series 50/60 employees and a merit pool appropriation of \$150,000 (an average of 2% increase) for merit increases. The third Article anticipated will deal with any changes in non-union benefit plans such as sick time or vacation changes. At this time, no motions are expected for the third Article.

## Approval of Minutes

Lucy Kapples made a motion to approve the minutes of December 18, 2013. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

## Announcements

Ms. Freiman announced the next meeting of Advisory would be on Wednesday, January 15, 2014, in the Juliani Room of Town Hall. The meeting tentatively scheduled for Saturday, January 18 has been cancelled and removed from the calendar.

Warrant presentations will be scheduled soon. The notice of the public hearing (January 29 at 7:00 pm) will be published in the Townsman. The 2014 ATM dates at this time are March 31st, April 1st, April 7th, April 8th at the High School and April 16<sup>th</sup> at the Middle School. If not adjourned, April 28<sup>th</sup> and April 29<sup>th</sup> will be scheduled, also at the Middle School.

New Business/Old Business

There was none

Ms. Freiman adjourned the meeting at 10:57 p.m. with no objections.