

**Advisory Committee**  
**January 29, 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 Hartnett, Lucy Kapples, Andy Patten, Ann Rappaport, Deb Robi, Mason Smith and Scott Tarbox.

Public Hearing on Warrant Articles for 2014 Annual Town Meeting

Ms. Freiman called the public hearing for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant to order at 7:01 p.m. Ms. Freiman thanked all the boards and commissions for their work and presentations to the Advisory Committee. She explained the purpose of the hearing was to receive public input on the Warrant items. She further explained Advisory's role and reviewed Town government structure. Ms. Freiman advised that those watching on Wellesley media could send their comments via the website: [AdvisoryCommittee@Wellesleyma.gov](mailto:AdvisoryCommittee@Wellesleyma.gov).

Each article was presented individually and the public was invited to comment.

The following citizens spoke to Advisory in favor of the proposed School budget (Article 8): Susan Clapman, Rebecca Cahaley, Sarah Pederson, Karen Buckley, Polly Fraga and Margaret Lyne.

*The public hearing was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.*

*The regular meeting of Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:45 p.m.*

Citizen Speak

No one wished to speak.

Town-Wide Financial Plan

Hans Larsen, Executive Director, gave the overview of the Town Wide Financial Plan (TWFP or Plan). He explained that the guiding principles of the Plan were to pay the full cost of current operations, proactively address issues as they arise, protect the Town from material risks, preserve assets and project long-term capital needs. Included in the development of the Plan is the consideration of collective bargaining agreements, health insurance costs, pension and OPEB costs, debt service and any possible override initiative. Although some contracts have been finalized, there is ongoing collective bargaining on several contracts which expire at the end of June. Debt exclusions and a review of projected debt service were discussed. Projected reserves and Free Cash as well as an override history and review of various approaches were given. Questions were raised about how the priority of capital projects is determined and how town-wide priorities are determined in comparison to individual department or committee priorities.

School Department and School Committee

Dr. David Lussier, Superintendent, gave the presentation. He was accompanied by Salvatore Petralia, Assistant Superintendent, Dean Blaise, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Judy Belliveau, Director of Finance and Business Operations, and KC Kato, Chair of the Wellesley School Committee. Also present were Stephen Goodwin, Principal of Sprague, Ellen Quirk,

Principal of Hunnewell, Charlene Cook, Principal of Hardy, Kathleen Dooley, Director of Technology, and Diane Campbell, member of the School Committee.

Dr. Lussier addressed specific concerns and questions previously raised by Advisory committee members following the initial presentation on the School budget. Discussion followed regarding full-day Kindergarten, which is defined as a minimum of 5 hours per day for 5 days a week for a total of 180 days per school year. The minimum requirement is a half-time teaching assistant needed per class to be eligible for the State kindergarten grant. Due diligence was done with area schools similar to Wellesley and classes were found to be similar in size with 18-22 pupils. Newton is the only school district with a hybrid Kindergarten structure like Wellesley at this time. Dr. Lussier stated that 88% of all Kindergarten students in Massachusetts attend full day classes.

A review of the Teaching Assistant role and responsibilities in the Kindergarten classroom followed. Most TAs are certified teachers whose salary is determined by a five-step pay schedule set by the School Committee and who are not subject to collective bargaining. The pay schedule was reviewed. Dr. Lussier stated that the teaching staff was in favor of full-day Kindergarten and would like to be included in the process of selecting their TAs.

Dr. Lussier explained the reasons for establishing a House Model for the high school and the need to hire a third Assistant Principal. He mentioned reducing central office staff reclassification of some staffing positions, and organizing students into smaller groups (“houses”) with a cadre of professionals to assist students in that particular house. Advisory had some concerns as there is a half-million dollar deficit which needs to be reduced, and some members questioned the need for the third administrator at this time.

The One-to-One iPad program was clarified. Parents of sixth graders have the option to send the child with a unit already owned or lease-to-own a unit from the School. The program will be expanded into other grades in the near future.

Advisory asked School Administrators to consider any programs that might be postponed until later if the budget was not approved as requested. School Committee will review their gap list on February 4<sup>th</sup>, vote on it at a meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup>, and report back to Advisory.

#### Budget Discussions – Recreation Department

*Due to the lateness of hour, this item was postponed until the next meeting with no objections*

#### Presentations on Warrant Articles

The Chair advised that most of the Warrant Articles need to be scheduled for review and vote by Advisory. Scheduling would be started soon.

#### Approval of Minutes

Lucy Kapples made a motion to approve the minutes of January 22, 2014. 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, February 5, 2014 in the Juliani Room of Town Hall. There will also be a meeting of Advisory on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at the Police Station at 8:00 a.m.

The Inter-board Meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in the Great Hall on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

## New Business/Old Business

Terri Tsagaris, Board of Selectmen, announced that the Governor had recently signed legislation to allow beer and wine sales in stores, but the legislature had removed the restrictions as to the kind of stores that could apply for licenses. The Town's proposal to limit sales to grocery or specialty stores specifically will need to be reviewed with a potential Bylaw change. There is a possibility that a Special Town Meeting will be held during the Annual Town Meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. to address this issue. It is anticipated there will be a Bylaw change proposed to prohibit the sale of beer and wine in stand-alone stores.

Ms. Freiman adjourned the meeting at 10:46 p.m. with no objections.