

Advisory Committee
March 26, 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, John Hussey, Lucy Kapples, Andy Patten, Ann Rappaport, Deb Robi, Mason Smith and Scott Tarbox.

Executive Session to Discuss Collective Bargaining

The Chair made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining and individual members were polled with unanimous agreement. Advisory went into Executive Session at 7:31 p.m.

Advisory returned to public session at 7:55 p.m.

Citizen Speak

No one wished to speak at this time.

Article 16 – PBC Presentation of Updated Costs

Matt King, Chair of Permanent Building Committee, Kathy Mullaney, Projects Administrator, KC Kato, Chair of School Committee, Matt Kelley, School Committee and Barbara Searle, Board of Selectmen, presented the update on Article 16. This Article requests authorization to appropriate an approximate amount of \$4,764,224 to the Permanent Building Committee for the construction of nine projects (including soft costs and contingency fees) funded through short-term borrowing inside the levy. These projects are the following: Police Station and Fire Department HVAC, Fire Station flooring, Wellesley Middle School entrance and auditorium seating, Warren Building repairs, Hunnewell School roof and Sprague School roof and plaza. Some contract bids are being reviewed and the exact amount of money required will be submitted to Advisory for approval before or at the Annual Town Meeting.

Previously, Advisory took a non-binding straw vote on the necessity of a slate roof being installed at Sprague School with 4 in favor, 4 opposed and 5 undecided at that time. Since that vote, the BOS have approved the slate roof. David Wright, Chair of the Historical Commission, as well as Dwight Lueth and Helen Robertson, Commission members, were present to answer questions regarding the roof. They made a recommendation that the roof be repaired with slate for historical reasons. Discussion followed. Some Advisory members were still concerned about the cost of slate versus a regular roof replacement.

Lucy Kapples made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommend favorable action on Article 16. Ann Rappaport seconded the motion.

Disposition:

Favorable action was recommended on Article 16 by a show of hands, 13 to 1.

Preparation for Annual Town Meeting

The Chair advised that Advisory members would meet at 6:30 p.m. prior to the Annual Town Meeting next week. Article 7 and Article 16 would be included in the Supplementary Advisory

Report. If necessary, Advisory would take votes on any issues requiring attention. The BOS advised that Advisory may need to meet during the break to vote on some items.

Debrief on Budget Process

The Chair asked for discussion on the budget process and suggestions from Advisory members for future budget preparations. Advisory believes that the decision to have an override may sometimes encourage additional spending. The budget guidelines were given to the departments in the fall and that guideline may have been unrealistic. Pension and OPEB funding continue to be a contributing factor to our growing budget deficit. Some members think the budgetary process is working according to our current government structure. Many believe that there is complacency and that a message to department heads to balance their budgets is needed. Priorities need to be established and costs need to be aligned with outcomes. Advisory would like the boards and commissions to come back to discuss the budgetary process and these suggestions after 2014 ATM concludes in order to get a better start on planning for next year's budgetary demands. Advisory felt having the Special Town Meeting in the fall made it difficult to complete the thorough budget review required for the Annual Town Meeting. Members expressed the desire for future Special Town Meetings to be limited to crucial time-sensitive initiatives whenever possible.

Liaison Reports

The Chair asked for liaison reports and various members of the Advisory Committee provided their reports.

Calendar Review

Advisory will meet prior to the Annual Town Meeting on Monday, March 31st and Tuesday, April 1st at 6:30 p.m. in the Faculty Dining Room of the Wellesley High School.

Approval of Minutes

Lucy Kapples made a motion to approve the minutes of March 19, 2014. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

New Business/Old Business

There was none.

Ms. Freiman adjourned the meeting at 10:03 p.m. with no objections.