

Advisory Committee
December 3, 2014
Felix Juliani Meeting Room, Town Hall

Andy Patten called the meeting of the Wellesley Advisory Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. Those present included Mary Crown, Thomas Engels, Tom Frisardi, Chad Harris, John Hartnett, John Hussey, Michael Mastrianni, Frank Pinto, Lon Povich and Scott Tarbox.

Citizen Speak

No one wished to speak at this time.

DPW FY 16 Operating Budget

David Donohue, Board of Public Works provided the review of the DPW Operating Budget for FY16. He was accompanied by Board member Paul Criswell, as well as Mike Pakstis, Director, and David Cohen, Assistant Director of the DPW.

The department organization was reviewed: 5 divisions, 11 programs and 119 employees. Evaluation performance criteria included highway activities, park activities and water/sewer activities. Evaluation is reviewed quarterly. Goals of the department include providing essential services, emergency services, and maintenance services, provide information and planning support and protecting, maintaining and improving Town infrastructure.

Budget drivers include contracted salary increases, waste and recycling costs, equipment costs, energy costs and training and license requirements. Production and supervisory contracts are settled through FY17. Management salaries and Group 40 salaries are anticipated to increase 2.5%. Trash tipping fees have increased \$1.50 ton, but tonnages are down. Gas, diesel and repair costs are all increased, as well as energy costs. The department must meet new mandates for Hoisting Operators.

FY16 Operating Budget includes \$4,135,476 for Personal Services; \$2,234,492 Expenses; \$348,703 Winter Maintenance; RDF Initiatives – Personal Service \$57,378 and Expenses \$74,655 for a total request of \$6,850,704. (Note: The RDF Initiatives are self-funded)

About 25% of DPW's personal services work is funded from other sources. The labor, materials and equipment charges are tracked and billed monthly. The impact on the Operating Budget was reviewed. Personal Service funding from other sources includes Street Permit Program \$124,670; Work for Others \$293,632; Enterprise Work for Others \$147,535; Enterprise Fund Support \$422,494 and Capital \$538,422 for a total of \$1,526,753. The budget request reflects \$5,719,607 for total Personal Services and brings a grand total budget to \$8,377,457.

Paul Criswell discussed the Water and Sewer Budgets. Budget drivers include a decrease in MWRA water charges, increases in MWRA sewer rates, increases in contractual salaries, increases in employee benefit programs and continued maintenance and replacement of water and sewer infrastructure. He mentioned that water meters will be replaced starting in FY16.

Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds are set up by state law, are funded by the rate payers with a goal of breaking even. Revenues from water and sewer depend on usage and weather. Rates are set to reflect operating budget needs, MWRA water fees, capital building needs and payment of any debt service.

The FY Operating Budget request for Water and Sewer shows Personal Services \$2,557,304; MWRA Expenses \$6,473,698; Other Expenses \$2,608,393 for total Operating Expenses of \$11,639,395. Other charges include depreciation of \$1,354,600 and interest charges of \$199,500. Total Operating Budget for Water and Sewer is \$13,193,495 which is down 2.1% from FY15.

Mr. Criswell reported there was no expected increase in the water rate, but there would be an expected increase in sewer rates of 6%.

Calendar Update

The Chair reviewed the items scheduled in the calendar for the remaining meetings in December.

Approval of Minutes

Mason Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of November 19, 2014. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved by a show of hands with 11 ayes and 1 abstention.

Liaison Reports

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

New Business/Old Business

The Chair stated findings from the Town Government Study showed requests for changes in the presentations and more discussion.

The Advisory Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. on December 10, 2014 in the Juliani Room of Town Hall.

Mr. Patten adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m. with no objections.