

**Advisory Committee**  
**January 6, 2016**  
**Felix Juliani Meeting Room, Town Hall**

Tom Frisardi called the meeting of the Wellesley Advisory Committee to order at 7:00pm. Those present included Mary Crown, Tom Fitzgibbons, Chad Harris, John Hartnett, Mike Hluchyj, Mark Kaplan, Michael Mastrianni, Frank Pinto, Alena Poirier, Sara Raveret, Mason Smith, Ria Stolle, Scott Tarbox, and Kathleen Woodward.

Citizen Speak

No one wished to speak at this time.

Board of Selectmen, Executive Director, and Finance Director discussion of omnibus budget, general government services budget for 2017

Hans Larsen, Sheryl Strother, and David Murphy addressed the Advisory Committee. Sheryl reviewed the sources and uses presented at the Spring 2015 Annual Town Meeting and compared last year's forecasts to the FY 2017 guidelines. The BOS knew when setting the FY17 guidelines (4% for schools and 2.5% for all other departments) that even if all of the departments came in at the guidelines, the town would still have a deficit of \$1,025,120. Sheryl discussed the actual budget requests for FY17, noting that the department budgets are in various states of approval by the boards. The current budget requests would result in a 1,897,651 deficit. Sheryl noted that the schools have reduced their cash capital request to keep their operating budget at the 4% guideline; otherwise, the school budget request is at 4.87% (almost 1% over guideline). A budget meeting is scheduled for Tuesday with department heads, the BOS, the Advisory Chair, the School Superintendent, and the DPW. It will be a challenge to balance the FY17 budget, but all are confident that it can and will be done. Going forward, though, an override will be needed in FY18; the forecasted deficit in FY18 is \$5,056,400.

Board of Public Works (BPW), budget for 2017

David Donohue and Owen Dugan of the Board of Public Works, Director Michael Pakstis, and Assistant Director David Cohen addressed the committee. David Donohue reviewed the DPW divisions and programs, the employee count, the operating budget objectives, and the drivers of the DPW budget. Additional Sunday openings at the RDF, increased park expenses, winter maintenance, and RDF business initiatives were discussed. Funding from other sources includes the street permit program and completing work for other town departments. The tax impact operating budget request is \$7,028,186, which is a 2.5% increase over their FY16 budget (the guideline).

Because of time, it was decided that the BPW would come back to present their Capital Budget at the Advisory Committee's meeting on January 13, 2016.

Board of Library Trustees, budget for 2017

Board members Beth Sullivan Woods, Ann Mara Lanza, and Marla Robinson, and Director Jamie Jurgensen addressed the Advisory Committee. Beth Sullivan Woods discussed the Library's budget overview and the budgeting considerations. The FY17 operating budget is \$2,334,355, a 1.14% increase from FY16 (union contracts still have to be negotiated). The tax impact operating budget only covers "core" services; the budget request does not include privately funded programs and service enhancements. Typically, private funding accounts for 20% of the total library budget, including all library programs, new material formats and collection enhancements, ESL, outreach to schools, branch library operations, and technology enhancements. The key drivers for the FY17 budget are new leadership, technology needs, state guidelines and Minuteman membership, the open union contract (full-time and part-time employees are part of the union), and circulation and usage patterns. The FY17 cash capital budget is \$131,300 (a decrease of \$35,000 from the projected FY17 request). The plan is to add a revenue management kiosk, upgrade the self-check machines, repair and replace furniture, and study whether investing in a material handler would make sense.

Discussion of liaison roles

Committee assignments were discussed to make sure Advisory members are able to cover the ongoing meetings relating to the Tolles-Parson Center, 900 Worcester Street, and Hardy-Hunnewell-Upham.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the 12/16/15 meeting will be reviewed at the next Advisory meeting.

Old Business/New Business

The Advisory Committee's Public Hearing for the Special Town Meeting will be held Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, in the Juliani Room of Town Hall. The agendas for the next several weeks were discussed.

Adjourn

The Advisory Committee will meet at 7:00pm on January 13 in the Juliani Room of Town Hall.

Tom Frisardi adjourned the meeting at 10:55pm with no objections.