

Advisory Committee
January 13, 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, Michael Mastrianni, Alena Poirier, Sara Raveret, Mason Smith, Ria Stolle, Scott Tarbox, and Kathleen Woodward. Mason Smith left the meeting at 7:30pm to attend the CPC meeting and returned at 8:45pm.

Citizen Speak

No one wished to speak at this time.

Board of Public Works, budget for FY17 (continuation of discussion started on 1/6/16)

David Donohue, Paul Criswell, and Owen Dugan of the Board of Public Works; Director Michael Pakstis; and Assistant Director David Cohen addressed the committee. The capital budget objectives of the DPW are to maintain town infrastructure proactively; invest to replace worn out facilities; support productivity efficiencies; improve safety; and to generate revenue. The tax-impact cash capital budget request for FY17 is \$1,954,000; this includes \$465,000 for Street Improvements, \$100,000 for the Street Rehabilitation Program, \$160,000 for the Sidewalk Program, \$20,000 for the Private Ways Street Program, \$100,000 for the Stormwater Drainage Program, \$115,000 for the DPW Facilities Project, \$145,000 for the Playing Fields, and \$849,000 for the Vehicle Replacement Program. Other sources of funding for the DPW are Chapter 90 Funds (\$1,420,000) and Long-term Bonding (\$1,000,000), which add up to \$2,420,000; the total use of capital funds for FY2017 is expected to be \$4,374,000. Advisory members asked questions regarding the cost of the bathroom renovations at Hunnewell Field, how the Vehicle Replacement Program works, and how decisions are made regarding the Street Improvement Program (the goal is to pave approximately 10 miles of roadway each year).

The BPW updated the Advisory Committee on the contamination of the salt shed soil and requested \$74,000 from the Advisory Reserve Fund to pay for the disposal of the material. Because of the pesticides found in the soil, it was difficult to find facilities willing to take it (two facilities in Canada were found).

Sara Raveret made a motion to approve the request from the DPW to transfer \$74,000 from the Advisory Reserve Fund to pay for the disposal of the contaminated soil. Scott Tarbox seconded the motion; the motion was approved, 11 to 0.

Municipal Light Plant (MLP) Board, budget for 2017

Board members Owen Dugan, Paul Criswell, and David Donahue; Director Richard Joyce; Assistant Director Debra Healy; and Superintendent James Verner addressed the committee. All expenditures are non-tax impact. The MLP operates as a business; they collect money from the goods and services they provide through the rate-payers. Non-operating revenues are used to lower Wellesley electric rates (including work for the Distributed Antenna System, Mass Development—Devens, Lighttower dark fiber lease, and the T-Mobile pole-mounted antennas). The MLP focuses on customer service—if a customer loses power, the average wait time for the power to return is 9 minutes. The MLP will continue this year with its annual payment to the town of \$1,000,000. The FY17 Operating Budget is \$32,903. Transmission charges to MLP have increased 377% over the last 10 years and are now at \$4.9 million for FY17. The Forward Capacity Market charges to the MLP have increased 286% over the last 9 years and are now at \$6.6 million for FY17; these charges are expected to increase to \$9.6 million in FY18. The capital work plan investment for FY17 is \$2,515,500—this includes infrastructure, vehicles, and customer-requested work. Because of the available cash balance, the MLP does not expect a rate increase through FY 20.

Board of Health (BOH), budget for 2017

Chair Shepard Cohen, Director Leonard Izzo, and Administrator Deadra Doku-Gardner addressed the committee. Mr. Cohen began his remarks by expressing his frustration with the efforts the BOH has made over the last 15 years to create an “Assistant Director” position—to no avail. The BOH has had difficulty getting the Human Resources (HR) Department to provide an evaluation of a revised job description and to

classify the position; the latest request was made to the HR Department in December 2014, and the work has yet to be completed by the HR Department. In the meantime, the managerial and administrative responsibilities are being fulfilled by a person in a “clerical” position.

The Operating Budget request is \$489,922, which is \$20,359 more than FY16 (a 4.34% increase). The expenses increased by \$11,378 (16.95%) because the BOH needs to purchase influenza vaccine for town employees; this was previously funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Vaccine Management Division. The Capital Budget request is \$13,661, which would cover the costs to replace the vaccine refrigerator and freezer. The Mental Health Services Budget is \$745,613, a \$20,359 increase (2.81%). The demands of town mental health services continue to be greater than our resources.

Town Clerk, budget for 2017

Kathleen Nagle, the Town Clerk, addressed the Advisory Committee. The Operating Budget request for FY17 is \$322,131, which is \$35,138 higher than FY16 (a 12.24% increase). The increase is due to the third election scheduled for FY17 (there were only two elections in FY16). In addition, the State has mandated 10 days of early voting for the November 2016 election; the Town Clerk suggests offering voting hours at the Recreation Building for all hours that the building is open for the 10-day pre-election period. Early and absentee voting will also be available at Town Hall. The Capital Budget request is \$15,385 [*note: it looks like this should be \$16,385*]. Included in the Capital Budget are new voting booths for \$11,985, new computers for \$3,400, and new filing cabinets for \$1,000.

Planning Board, budget for 2017

Chair Deborah Carpenter and Director Michael Zehner addressed the committee. The FY17 Operating Budget request is \$286,570, a \$6,741 increase from FY16; the 2.41% increase falls within the 2.5% guideline. The capital budget request of \$170,000 includes funding the Unified Plan (\$120,000), the Historic District Design Guidelines (\$20,000), the Wellesley Square Wayfinding and Branding Project (\$10,000), and the Design Review Board Design Guidelines (\$20,000).

Stephen Murphy, the Chair of the Natural Resources Commission (NRC), and Brandon Schmitt, the Director of the NRC, joined the conversation with the Planning Board to discuss re-zoning of NRC-owned property. The properties include 124.8 acres in 28 parcels; some are currently in the Single Residence District and some are in the Education District. The proposal is to re-zone the properties (which have been broken down into 10 zoning map amendments) to be part of the Conservation zoning district. This action implements policies and recommendations of both the 2007 Comprehensive Plan and the 2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan, with the former supporting the action that “all park and conservation land is placed in the ‘Conservation’ zoning district.” Currently, none of the land is developed (except for the Clock Tower in Clocktower Park). The properties to be considered for re-zoning are: Morton Park, Beebe Meadow, Simons Park, Clocktower Park, Reeds Pond, Kelly Memorial Park, Rockridge Pond, Fuller Brook Park, Hunnewell/Reidy Field, and Caroline Brook/Phillips Park.

Approval of Minutes

Sara Raveret made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2015, meeting. Mason Smith seconded the motion; the motion was approved by a show of hands, 10-0 (one member abstained from the vote since he was not present at the meeting).

Tom Frisardi suggested a correction to the minutes from the January 6, 2016, meeting. *Sara Raveret made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2016, meeting as amended. Mason Smith seconded the motion; the minutes were approved by a show of hands, 11 to 0.*

Liaison Reports

Advisory members gave updates on the schools, DPW, 900 Worcester Street, the NRC, and the Wellesley High School track and field.

Adjourn

The Advisory Committee will hold its Public Hearing for the Winter Special Town Meeting at 7:00pm on January 19 in the Juliani Room of Town Hall.

Tom Frisardi adjourned the meeting at 10:45pm with no objections.