

# TOWN OF WELLESLEY



## ADVISORY COMMITTEE LETTER 2010 SPECIAL TOWN MEETINGS—7:30 P.M. AND 9:15 P.M.

### **TERM ENDS 2011**

Steve Simons, Chair  
Caren Parker, Vice Chair  
Rick Hill  
Barbara McMahon  
Jason Whittet

### **TERM ENDS 2012**

Jack Haley, Vice Chair  
Virginia Ferko, Secretary  
Maura Murphy  
Rich Page  
Derek Redgate

### **TERM ENDS 2013**

Laura Hockett  
Catherine Johnson  
Philip Licari  
David Murphy  
Polly Smith

### **To the Citizens of the Town of Wellesley:**

**November 12, 2010**

Two Special Town Meetings will convene on Monday, December 6, one at 7:30 p.m. and the other at 9:15 p.m. Both will be held at the Wellesley Middle School Auditorium, 40 Kingsbury Street. The first meeting will consider Articles proposed by the School Committee, the Community Preservation Committee, the Municipal Light Board and the Board of Selectmen. The second meeting will consider Articles relating to appropriations made at the 2010 Annual Town Meeting for the Town's water and sewer programs. All residents are welcome to attend the meetings in person, or follow the proceedings on Wellesley Cable TV (Comcast Channel 9, Verizon Channel 39).

This letter presents the Advisory Committee's overall perspective on the key features of the Articles to be considered at each meeting. A more comprehensive Advisory Committee Report to Town Meeting members for each meeting will be mailed or delivered to all Town Meeting members and to all Town departments. Each Report will also be posted to the Advisory page at the Town website, [www.wellesleyma.gov](http://www.wellesleyma.gov). Copies of each Report will also be available for pick-up at the Town Clerk's Office and at the Wellesley Free Library no later than seven days before the meetings. The Selectmen's Office will mail a copy of the Report to any resident who requests one. If any further recommendations are made by Advisory between publication of the Reports and the opening of the applicable Special Town Meeting, a notice will be sent to Town Meeting Members by e-mail, and the new recommendations will be also posted to the Advisory page on the Town's web site.

### **The 7:30 P.M. 2010 Special Town Meeting - Specifics**

The Board of Selectmen has called the 7:30 p.m. Special Town Meeting (the Special Town Meeting) principally to consider an appropriation to fund costs required to make internal renovations at the Wellesley Middle School to address increased enrollment at the Middle School. Additional articles have been included which are either time-sensitive or are related to funding current fiscal year items.

There are six substantive Articles on the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting. We do not expect any motion under Article 7. Articles 4 and 8 and the motion under Article 5, to

supplement the FY11 budget of the Council of Aging, request appropriations. It is anticipated that these appropriations would be made from the Town's free cash reserves and not from the incurrence of debt. As of the time of this Report, the market value of the Town's Stabilization Fund is \$3,022,256, and the Town's free cash as of June 30, 2010 (excluding free cash in enterprise funds), has been certified by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue to be \$9,471,751. The Board of Selectmen, after consultation with the Executive Director of General Government Services, has determined that, after the use of free cash for the purposes described below, the level of reserves held by the Town generally and in free cash specifically is consistent with other AAA rated communities in Massachusetts and will not impair the Town's debt ratings.

The substantive Articles for the Special Town Meeting are grouped below according to the sponsoring Board (the School Committee, the Board of Selectmen, the Community Preservation Committee and the Municipal Light Board). At the time this letter and the Advisory Committee's Report to Special Town Meeting go to print, Advisory has sufficient information to vote its recommendations on four of these Articles.

### ***School Committee***

#### **Article 4 – Renovations to the Wellesley Middle School**

Article 4 requests an appropriation of \$1,600,000 to fund design and construction costs required to renovate internal spaces at the Wellesley Middle School. These internal renovations, combined with increased utilization of existing spaces, are necessary to address the increased capacity needs at the Middle School on a timely basis and with the least disruption and compromise to students and faculty at an acceptable cost. Advisory supports this measure.

### ***Board of Selectmen***

**Article 5 – Supplementing the FY11 Budgets of the Council on Aging (COA) and the Library.** Under a motion to be made under this Article, the Selectmen are seeking \$26,300 to supplement the FY11 budget of the COA, to be used to pay a share of cleaning services to improve cleanliness at the Wellesley Community Center. Advisory supports this measure.

Under a separate motion, the Board of Library Trustees is seeking a supplement to its FY11 budget of \$56,941 to cover greater-than-anticipated expenses to be incurred by the Wellesley Free Library (WFL) in fulfilling its obligations under an Interlibrary Loan Contract. Expenses under this contract are funded in advance by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, and neither the contract nor the requested increase to the WFL budget will have any tax impact on the Town.

**Article 7 – Roadway Improvements at or near 27 Washington Street for which the Town is eligible for a “MORE” grant.** Advisory understands that no motion will be made under this Article.

**Article 8 – Payment of Expenses Incurred by Town Departments Prior to July 1, 2010.** The Town Clerk will be requesting a \$520 appropriation to pay an invoice that was inadvertently not paid during FY10. Advisory views this matter as a “housekeeping” matter and supports this request.

### ***Community Preservation Committee***

**Article 6 – Supplemental Funding for the Clock Tower.** This Article requests approval of an appropriation from funds in the Community Preservation Fund to provide additional money for

the repair and preservation of the Isaac Sprague Memorial Clock Tower located in Elm Park. Advisory will make its recommendation prior to or at the Special Town Meeting.

### ***Municipal Light Board***

**Article 3 – Adoption of an Early Retirement Plan for Certain Employees.** This Article seeks approval to authorize the Town to establish and implement an early retirement incentive program for its employees and to approve a specific plan applicable to certain employees at the Municipal Light Plant. Advisory supports this request.

### **The 9:15 P.M. Special Town Meeting**

The 9:15 P.M. Special Town Meeting (the 9:15 Special Town Meeting) is being called to address two matters. The level of free cash in the sewer and water enterprise funds as of June 30, 2010, as certified by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR), was insufficient to support the appropriations from retained earnings approved under Articles 12 and 13 at the 2010 Annual Town Meeting. Accordingly, the related FY11 budgets will need to be amended. The Board of Public Works, as both Water and Sewer Commissioners, are currently evaluating alternative approaches to rebalance the budgets for these two enterprise funds in a manner that is acceptable to the DOR.

The DOR has stated that it will not certify the Town's tax rate until these matters are addressed by the Town and any reduction or reallocation of expenses has been made by Town Meeting.

Advisory will make its recommendations prior to or at the 9:15 p.m. Special Town Meeting.

The Advisory Committee thanks the dedicated Town employees, elected and appointed officials, and concerned citizens who devote so much time, energy, and expertise to the Town's affairs. Town Meeting is an opportunity to examine important issues, enter into dialogue, and vote as a community on how to best serve our Town and its residents. We hope this letter and the Advisory Report provides the information needed for all to understand the issues being brought to the Special Town Meeting.

Advisory welcomes citizen input. Our meetings are open to the public and each meeting begins with a "Citizen Speak" session. We also receive e-mail at [advisorycommittee@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:advisorycommittee@wellesleyma.gov). While we generally do not reply to individual e-mails, we do read each one.

Sincerely,

Steve Simons, Chair  
Advisory Committee



Advisory Committee  
Town Hall  
Wellesley, Ma. 02482

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## RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER WELLESLEY, MA

- WMS Building Renovation to increase capacity
- Supplemental FY11 Budget Requests
- Clock Tower Project
- MLP Early Retirement Plan

*Including:*

**Information from the  
Advisory Committee on the  
Special Town Meetings  
December 6, 2010**