

**Advisory Committee Meeting  
Juliani Room, Wellesley Town Hall  
Wednesday, January 15, 2020 7:00 p.m.**

Those present from Advisory Committee included John Lanza, Mary Scanlon, Mary Gard, Ralph Tortorella, Bill Maynard, Betsy Roberti, Deed McCollum, Neal Goins, Paul Merry, Patti Quigley, Rusty Kellogg, Lina Musayev, and Jennifer Fallon.

Betsy Roberti called meeting to order at 7pm

7:00: Citizen Speak – None

Recreation FY21 Budget Presentation

Advisory Question: The \$391K is not paid for out of the 20% that you collect?

- It is not. Comes from the Town. The 20% pays for the program costs.

Advisory Question: Why do you usually come in under?

- We don't go to conferences; we keep our printing and mailing expenses down; we try to keep fees down.

Advisory Question: When you are budgeting for non-tax impact, how do you know what the participation will be in order to determine the budget?

- We project using the previous year's numbers. We look at the increase from the known prior years and project the numbers. Sometimes, we offer programs that are not ever run because there is not sufficient participation.

Advisory Question: Does the 20% provide programming for lower income children?

- We provide scholarships and ask partners to not charge us for certain children. We try not to increase in some areas and not others.

Advisory Question: Do you have any idea of the split between adults and kids and is there any impact from declining school enrollment?

- There has been no impact. Our numbers have been increasing in participation. We also coordinate with the middle school and others to try and increase the participation with young teenagers.

Continued review of budget and program revenue and highlights from slide deck.

Advisory Question: Does Friendly Aid go through a needs testing?

- Yes.

Advisory Question: Do you have a need that you can't meet because Friendly Aid can't provide enough scholarship funds?

- No, we haven't had that issue yet. 100% of the kids who want to come to camp who couldn't afford it, can come with the scholarship program.

Advisory Question: Why do you have turnback if you need money for the MOPO study?

- We generally give the funds to the Town. We will discuss it later during our discussion of the MOPO study.

Advisory Question: What was your turnback from the Departmental budget?

- Maybe a couple of grand or less.

Advisory Question: Do you provide transportation for low income camp participants?

- We had a bus service provided by the Board of Health.

#### Morses Pond Discussion and plans for renovation of Pond facilities

\$80,000 study. Last year used \$40,000; this year used \$40,000.

Plan is to put money aside to fund the project so they don't have to do a large request for a debt exclusion

Advisory Question: Stabilization Fund question – is it really a stabilization fund?

- Ours is more of a fund we can put aside for projects because Rec doesn't have any large fluctuations that requires a true stabilization fund.

Advisory Question: Where is that conversation with the Town about funding the project?

- The project itself is building documents in 2024 and construction in 2025; met with Meghan and Sheryl, and there is a place holder in the warrant for this year's ATM, but there will be further discussions before we make a decision to move forward.

Advisory Question: When you introduced this, you talked about moving the bath house?

- They plan to tear it down and build a new bath house in a new location.

Advisory Question: Is there any sort of rough range of the cost with the current site plan?

- \$2-2.5 million for the whole project

Advisory Question: I'm curious about the thoughts on how to fund this. Why are people concerned about funding when it is a relatively small capital project?

- Rec has such a small budget, saving enough capital is too much. We want to generate surplus and ask the Town to pay for half and CPC to pay for half because it will be easier to fund it.

Advisory Comment: We should not cut into scholarship funds to fund this project. The Town could pay for it in order to avoid the Rec department to fund it by cutting programs, raising fees or reducing scholarships.

Advisory Comment: Question raised about whether those who use the Pond should have fees raised to help fund it; but it seems like everyone should benefit from it and therefore not just MOPO users should contribute with raised fees.

Advisory Question: Is it on the Capital Plan now?

- Yes, for 2024-25

Advisory Comment: It is important to keep programs affordable, but many commercial endeavors raise their rates.

Advisory Comment: Praise to Rec Dept for providing such a robust scholarship program and for the commitment to providing and preserving it.

Advisory Question: With regard to the budget, how are the program expenses structured? It seemed like the “exercise and sports” increased a lot. Also, the Hunnewell increase – why weren’t there after school programs there previously?

- With regard to the budget, we saw that much of an increase in the programs offered; in particular soccer for kids and pickle ball for adults. We have put in the maximum amount that we think that we are going to reach based on demand and prior interest and participation.
- With regard to Hunnewell, it came down to space in that building. The principal and PTO wanted to work with the Rec Dept to offer things there, and it just took a while to get things moving forward.

Advisory Question: When you have sports programs on the playing fields, do you have to pay a fee?

- No.

Advisory Question: There is \$10,000 in uniforms at MOPO, is that lifeguard gear?

- Lifeguard gear (swimsuits, rescue tubes, etc are all included in there

Advisory Question: Did Rec Dept get Boston Sports Institute time?

They have given us some ice time in exchange for advertising in the program. We have no other connection to the facility. We have no contractual right to use the facility.

Advisory Comment: It seems like the BSI facility has not turned out the way it was intended, since it was originally supposed to be a facility for the Town and it hasn’t turned out that way.

### Playing Fields Task Force (7:50)

Overview; statistics regarding use of fields

Advisory Question: Discussion regarding the use of fees.

Key projects discussion

Advisory Question: When the problem at Sprague was discovered, I hope the vendor was taking the hit for that?

- Yes.

Advisory Question: Are the bathrooms going to happen?

- That is my understanding. They have not gone to final bid, but they believe that they can come in within the budget to get containerized bathroom systems. NRC was going to have the design presentation soon.

Advisory Question: Field fees go into a revolving fund, but not a 53D revolving fund?

- Recreation is allowed to deposit into the account (it is a 53E-) and it allows Rec to put money in and take it out.

Advisory Question: Practice wall?

- The designer will do the site work.

Advisory Question: Does DPW contribute to the maintenance costs for the fields?

- Ordinary maintenance is paid for by the Rec Dept, but DPW might be responsible for something that is outside the scope of normal maintenance.

Advisory Question: Is there a separate field fund?

- There is a maintenance fund and a fund we deposit into for future replacement of turf.

Advisory Question: Where is the funding coming from for the lighting?

- NRC is working through a lot of it. If NRC decides to put in stadium lights, we could raise those funds privately. And then the replacement lights that are proposed in the report; we are working on funding sources for that, including grants, green communities funding, etc.

Advisory Question: The turf replacement fund and field replacement fund is the same thing?

- Yes.

Advisory Discussion regarding the difference between stabilization funds and other funds and the votes required to approve those funds by the Town. Since the Town didn't have to save money, there used to be no funds that were "squirreled away". Finance is aware of the number of funds that have excess savings that are not turned back to the Town.

#### Board of Health FY21 Budget (1:11)

Overview and review of new laws and regulations affecting BOH operations and budget considerations

Budget discussion; staff increases discussion. Raised FTEs to 8.1

Advisory Question: Last year we talked about the increased need for mental health services, but the budget is similar. Do you feel well-staffed?

- We have 35 PT hours, and we are working with HR to look at converting our PT hours into a FT position. It will likely take about a year to find someone to fill that position.

Advisory Question: Do you feel that the field of mental health has a handle on what to do in a preventative sense versus just a reactive sense?

- Public health's goal is prevention, and that is what we focus on. The social workers try to intervene before there is a crisis. This social services idea is fairly novel in public health, and the entire idea is prevention. That is one of the reasons we hired social work hours a few years ago.

Advisory Question: A year or two ago we voted funds for a FT mental health person we were dividing with the Town of Weston to support the police, didn't we?

- That is the Riverside Community Health position. Wellesley pays \$40,000 and Weston pays \$40,000, and the job is to work closely with the police.

Advisory Question: Is there a utilization report on that position?

- We don't have it yet, but the person is being utilized. The contract started in September 2019, so it's brand new. The police chief reports the person is doing a great job. Last year, they had about 240 mental health calls to Wellesley 911 that could have used that person, so we are hoping to have information at ATM.

Advisory Question: What was the turnback in FY19?

- I can't give you that off the top of my head.

Advisory Question: We have three years of actuals, and the raise is only 3.5% budget over budget, but compared to the actuals, it's a 35% increase.

- Yes, we typically don't spend what is requested. Some of that is unfilled positions. For example, we had a budget for a position that was unfilled for some of the year; sometimes we get a budget for equipment and then we get donated funds to use for that equipment. All the excess goes back to the Town. Typically, we have a turnback of \$30-35,000.

Advisory Question: Given this year's budget, where are you?

- We are under because of the social worker position. We didn't start her until February, so over half that budget will go back to the Town.

Advisory Question: You are looking for 2 hours/week for the environmental person to enforce the new tobacco rules. What will it take for that to occur?

They are going to have to check the stores to make sure they are only selling what is allowed by the new regulations. There are some loopholes with regard to vaping and the new tobacco laws. The State is still trying to figure it all out.

Advisory Question: Do you ever use contract health inspectors?

- Years ago we talked about using a contract for some larger pool projects, but not lately. We do everything in house for the most part.

Minutes Approval//Liaison Reports/Administrative Matters

Mary Gard: SBC is having a community forum to discuss the Hardy/Upham feasibility study. There will be some redistricting forums coming up on Jan 22 at 7pm and Jan 28 at 9am in the middle school auditorium.

Ralph Tortorella: discussion of revolving funds in Rec Dept and PFTF

Neal Goins: PBC questions about the 1-year delay on the Town Hall interior project. The interior and annex project will be discussed together at ATM, and will discuss the delay then. The effect on the disability requirements? None. An interesting issue that came up is that when the departments were asking for different office space, a committee member asked if there was a system for assigning offices. There is no system, so it may come up as an issue throughout the process.

Bill Maynard: Budget book and advisory report for ATM: Sheryl and Meghan are putting together a draft of the budget book and are going to have a good draft by the end of the month. Bill is working with the Finance Department to get the book together. Funnel questions about the book through Bill to avoid barraging Finance with questions during this busy time.

Question: It appears that we are restructuring our book and this process and should there be a section in our book that are happening across all departments if that is the case. If it is significant enough to cull it out separately, we can discuss it.

The advisory drafts will be advisory considerations, but we need to provide context. Final drafts are on the calendar.

Is the budget book just going to be for Article 8?

Will it be separate from the Advisory Book? The goal is to have the Budget Book be a standalone and living document for use all year long. We aren't sure exactly how it's going to work, but are trying to make it easier for TMMs and for Finance and AC to put together. The idea will be for Advisory to refer to the Budget Book as they want to and the Budget Book will be separate.

Typically, the Advisory Considerations come into play when the budgets are out of guidelines.

There will be more discussion as we see the Budget Book.

The Town Meeting prep sessions may be a good time to discuss the new Budget Book and Advisory Report.

Lina Musayev made a motion and Paul Merry seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting  
Passed 12-0-0.

9:12pm adjourn