

Approved March 22, 2023

**Advisory Committee Meeting
Zoom Video Conference
Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 6:30 p.m.**

Those present from Advisory Committee included Shawn Baker, Doug Smith, Madison Riley, Rani Elwy, Gail Sullivan, David Prock, Bill Schauffler, Pete Pedersen, Al Ferrer, Jenn Fallon, Christina Dougherty, Wendy Paul, Susan Clapham, Neal Goins, and Andrea Ward.

Chair Shawn Baker called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and Vice Chair Doug Smith took roll call of Advisory members in attendance.

Citizen Speak

There was no one present for Citizen Speak.

Article 5, Motion 2

Doug Smith made, and Neal Goins seconded a motion to rescind Advisory's vote on Article 5, Motion 2.

Roll call vote was taken.

Advisory's previous vote on Article 5, Motion 2 was unanimously rescinded.

Susan Clapham made and Jenn Fallon seconded favorable action on Article 5, Motion 2 as proposed by the Human Resources Board that the Salary Plan as established at the 1950 annual Town Meeting as amended be further amended July 1, 2023, by striking the existing pay schedule for the Merit Pay Plan, job groups 50 through 69, and inserting the new schedule, as set forth in the Warrant and the Motion as revised.

Roll call vote was taken.

Advisory recommends favorable action on Article 5, Motion 2, 14 to 0.

Article 7, Motion 3 – Compensated absences

Susan Clapham made, and Bill Schauffler seconded a motion for favorable action on Article 7, Motion 3 as proposed by the Select Board, that the town vote to transfer the sum of \$39,855 for compensated absences, said sum to be taken from free cash, to be added to the amount appropriated to employee benefits as provided in the Warrant and the Motion.

Roll call vote was taken.

Advisory recommends favorable action on Article 7, Motion 3, 14 to 0.

Liaison Reports

PBC/Wendy Paul – bids for the Hardy project are due next week. There was conversation last week about some of the various vendor bids. PBC is waiting for the larger construction number, which looks to be tight. Next week at the PBC meeting all the bids will have been received and will be discussed; they will also discuss whether additional funds will be required and how that will be handled.

DPW/Pete Pedersen – the EPA came out with PFAS proposed regulations proposing that they would regulate not an increased level of chemicals but different PFAS chemicals than are currently regulated. Final regulations are due in about a year and the DEP, which is at least as strict as the EPA, will come out with regulations shortly after. It's a developing story and does not change the timing of things. Weston Road bids are expected around the time of Town Meeting.

MLP/Neal Goins – the battery storage at the MLP was discussed at the Select Board meeting and the Select Board is eager to negotiate and finalize the agreement with the operators of the project. Advisory

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could rescind their recommendation and revote on the general provision if the final contract is approved before Town Meeting votes.

Planning/Madison Riley– for this Town Meeting it looks likely that the Sisters of Charity property will not be addressed but it is hoped that it will come to a Special Town Meeting in the fall.

Board of Health/Christina Doherty – provided an update of the recent BOH meeting. DEI task force presented to the BOH. There was a discussion about health disparities and equity and how this relates to the DEI article. The BOH works with an epidemiologist whose services are shared among seven (7) communities. Concern was expressed about the disparities in job classifications across town; the BOH will be meeting with HR to discuss this.

Select Board/Doug Smith – the Select Board has not yet voted the 40R agreement because it is not final; the Town Treasurer, Maura O’Connor, attended the recent SB meeting to assure everyone that the Town’s banks are safe.

Al Ferrer made and, Jenn Fallon seconded a motion to adjourn. Roll call vote was taken and the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.