

Approved March 28, 2023

**Advisory Committee Meeting
Zoom Video Conference
Wednesday, March 22, 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, Al Ferrer, Jenn Fallon, Christina Dougherty, Wendy Paul, Susan Clapham, Neal Goins, and Andrea Ward.

Meeting video can be found here [March 22, 2023 meeting](#)

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.

Wellesley Free Library (WFL) FY24 Budget Supportive/unsupportive vote

Jamie Jurgenson, Director, WFL; Marla Robinson, Chair, WFL Trustees; and Ann Rappaport, WFL Trustee, were present and provided an explanation for the over-guideline WFL FY24 budget request. The \$40,000 one-time budget “penalty” for two (2) full time employees (\$20,000 each) was inadvertently left out of the WFL FY24 budget request Advisory previously reviewed. This \$40,000 is attributed to the one-time surcharge to the department for two (2) newly created full-time positions which resulted from combining four (4) part-time non-benefit eligible positions in an effort to attract and retain staff.

Susan Clapham made, and Doug Smith seconded a motion to express support for the FY24 WFL Library revised operating budget, including benefits, which will result in a 3.87% (\$11,524) increase over FY23.

Discussion

- Support was expressed for the WFL FY24 budget request and for combining the four (4) part-time positions into two (2) full-time positions.
- A comment was made that the problem of retention and hiring does not seem to go away, and many departments are struggling with this.
 - There are some part-time benefitted positions at the WFL; when those positions become vacant, the intent is to turn those positions into 35-hour positions, and the WFL would not need to seek additional benefits.
- A comment was made that the WFL is an asset and a “jewel” to the Town and should be supported.
- A question was asked about where to find part-time employees and whether high school students or college students could be recruited for these positions.
 - In the past, people were interested in working part-time because they perhaps lived in town and had a working spouse. Now people are coming from greater distances and don’t want to work part-time. The WFL is in the same labor pool as everyone else and part-time positions are difficult to fill. The WFL hires high school students as pages.

Roll call vote was taken and Advisory expressed support for the WFL FY24, 12 to 0.

Article 7, Motion 1 (revised) – Winter Maintenance

An additional \$75,000 was requested by DPW for winter maintenance costs; the additional request changes the total amount requested for Article 7, Motion 1 to \$225,000. An explanation of the request was provided.

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Susan Clapham made, and Jen Fallon seconded a motion to rescind the vote by the Advisory Committee on Article 7, Motion 1 (taken on March 8, 2023).

Roll call vote was taken and Advisory's previous vote was rescinded, 13 to 0.

Susan Clapham made, and Wendy Paul seconded a motion for favorable action on Article 7, Motion 1 as proposed by the Select Board, that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$225,000 for additional snow and ice removal costs, said sum to be taken from Free Cash as provided in the Warrant, and the Motion as revised.

Discussion

- A question was asked if there is a more efficient way to handle and manage winter maintenance costs.
- A comment was made that it seems costly to remove snow.
- A question was asked if there is a downside to asking for a greater initial appropriation for winter maintenance in the DPW budget. Roll call vote was taken.

Advisory recommends favorable action on Article 7, Motion 1, 11 to 0.

Annual Town Meeting logistics were discussed.

An update on Article 41 was provided and the SB approved the amendment to the 40R Development Agreement on March 21, 2023. Members of Advisory were provided a copy of the Amendment and it is in the meeting documents below. Highlights of the Amendment were provided including commitments from the owners to address many concerns that have been raised.

Liaison Reports

- *School Committee/Jenn Fallon* – preliminary results of the School's Strategic Plan survey were discussed and there are a variety of points of view in the community; an update of School Committee's meeting with Wetlands Committee regarding Article 43 was provided.
- *Library/Christina Dougherty* – WFL Trustees voted to support Article 17 and had questions about the process going forward; interview results for the Library's strategic plan were reviewed; due to issues in the Commons room, guidelines for this room were discussed; a donor gift was accepted.
- *MLP/Neal Goins* – Article 31 update was provided. A valuation from a contract assessor was received. A draft agreement is being worked on; the agreement assumes depreciation and a tax rate with the total taxes due to be \$525,000 over 20 years. One representative from the Board of Assessors and one from the SB will be negotiating the final agreement by Town Meeting. Two questions are outstanding – (1) Can valuation based on depreciation schedules for cell phone towers be used for this project? and (2) What happens when equipment at the battery facility is added or taken away, and how would an adjustment to the payment in lieu of taxes be made?
- *PBC/Wendy Paul* – PBC is meeting tomorrow night regarding the placeholder for Article 19 and the potential appropriation for additional funds for the Hardy project. PBC will be discussing GMP for the project and the additional monies that might be needed to bring contingency money back to levels PBC believes to be appropriate.
- *Andrea Ward/CPC* – CPC is discussing two on-going items:
 - (1) The state-required deed restriction on portion of the North 40 that was funded with CPC funds. CPC needs to identify the specific portion of the North 40 that will be

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subject to the deed restriction, hire professionals for the process, and identify a non-profit to hold the deed restrictions.

- (2) The use of CPC funds to support a housing coordinator. CPC is trying to define the responsibilities of the position.
- *COA/Bill Schaffler* – COA will be taking advantage of custodian after-hour availability to revamp evening hours. COA is still looking for an assistant director; there is a possibility of getting additional EOE (Executive Office of Elder Affairs) funding.
- *Planning/Madison Riley* – at the recent Planning meeting, there was a discussion of Oakland and Route 9 development.

Minutes Approval

Bill Schaffler made, and Gail Sullivan seconded a motion to approve the minutes from March 8, 2023, and March 15, 2023.

Roll call vote was taken and the March 8, 2023, and March 15, 2023, minutes were unanimously approved.

Adjourn

Jenn Fallon made, and Al Ferrer seconded a motion to adjourn.

Roll call vote was taken and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Meeting Documents Reviewed

<https://wellesley.ma.gov/DocumentCenter/Index/2031>

- FY23 Winter Supplement Request 2
- WFL Memo to Advisory
- WOP – First Amendment to Development Agreement
- Article 7, Motion 1