

Approved April 24, 2023

**Advisory Committee Meeting
Faculty Dining Room
Wellesley Middle School
50 Kingsbury Street
Tuesday, April 11, 2023, 6:30 p.m.**

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

Dave Cohen, Director, DPW, and Sheryl Strother, Finance Director, were also present.

Chair Shawn Baker called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Citizen Speak

There was no one present for Citizen Speak.

Article 29 updates

Advisory continued discussion of the revised motion for Article 29 and discussed the impact of the stormwater fee. The impact of the fee as a tax was discussed. Dave Cohen and Sheryl Strother confirmed that the \$1 million for stormwater expenses currently in the FY24 budget will be transferred to the stormwater enterprise fund and in FY25 DPW's base budget will be reduced by \$1 million. These funds can be redirected to other town needs if necessary. Mr. Cohen further stated that DPW has a good track record of managing enterprise funds, citing both the Water and Sewer enterprise funds. Ms. Strother explained the need for the enterprise fund as DPW expenses are escalating, which squeezes other needs such as capital, because the escalating costs need to be addressed. The \$1 million is seed money to fund and if the fund becomes self-sufficient, then there will be a discussion about reducing the appropriation/taxes if there are no other needs. The town does not want the general fund supporting the enterprise fund in the future. Mr. Cohen said there would be a Public Hearing for rate increases which would provide an opportunity for the public to weigh in. The BPW approves the rate.

Susan Clapham made, and Doug Smith seconded a motion to rescind Advisory's prior vote on Article 29. Advisory voted by a show of hands, and Advisory unanimously rescinded its prior vote, 13 to 0.

Susan Clapham made, and Andrea Ward seconded a motion to take the April 10, 2023, motion for favorable action on the revised motion for Article 29 off the table. The motion for favorable action on Article 29 was taken off the table.

Advisory discussed the revised motion for Article 29. By a show of hands, Advisory recommends favorable action, 11 to 2.

Adjourn

Andrea Ward made, and Wendy Paul seconded a motion to adjourn at the close of Town Meeting tonight. Motion was unanimously approved, 13 to 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.