

Approved

June 3, 2020 Advisory Committee meeting (via Zoom videoconference)

Jennifer Fallon, Patti Quigley, John Lanza, Lina Musayev, Ralph Tortorella, Betsy Roberti, Rusty Kellogg, Deed McCollum, Bill Maynard, Paul Merry, Todd Cook, Neal Goins, Mary Scanlon, Julie Bryan, Mary Gard

7:00 p.m. Todd Cook opened the meeting and invited Citizen Speak; no one comes forward for Citizen Speak

- Discussion with Town Counsel regarding Union Contracts and how they were put forth to ATM
- Explanation of the legal issues regarding what needs to be approved by ATM
- Pay schedules are not to be voted on by ATM.

Question from Advisory: What is the function of ATM with regard to the collective bargaining agreements?

- ATM approves the appropriations but does not have the authority to vote on the terms of the contracts.

Comment from Advisory: Suggestion to tweak the language so it is clearer that only the appropriation is being voted/approved by ATM.

Question from Advisory: Is it correct that the contracts are negotiated on condition of approval by the financial authority of the Town?

- Town Counsel refers to the statute which states that the amount of the appropriation must be approved by the financial authority of the Town.

Question from Advisory: ATM only needs to approve of one of the three years?

- Once year 1 is approved, the Town is bound for the other two years.

Question from Advisory: Seems like the contracts are Town employees approving the contracts for other Town employees. Isn't that problematic?

- All contracts, both CBA and non-CBA, are approved by the BOS.

Question from Advisory: What happens if ATM does not approve the appropriations for the CBAs?

- The negotiation team would have to go back to the bargaining table.

Further discussion regarding process of negotiations and authority of ATM to approve appropriation.

Discussion regarding the BOS viewing these contracts as critical and a decision not taken lightly by BOS. Negotiations were not influenced by the pandemic in any way. Amounts are reflection of comparison to peer communities.

Approved

Advisory is committed to make the discussion clear in its supplemental report.

Votes on Motions for ATM:

Motion for favorable action on Article 5, Motion 4 by Julie Bryan; Mary Scanlon seconded.

Roll Call vote taken; motion passed 14-0.

Motion for favorable action on Article 5, Motion 5 by Julie Bryan; Mary Scanlon seconded.

Roll Call vote taken; motion passed 14-0.

Motion for favorable action on Article 5, Motion 6 by Julie Bryan; Deed McCollum seconded.

Roll Call vote taken; motion passed 14-0.

Motion for favorable action on Article 7, Motion 5 by Julie Bryan; Paul Merry seconded.

Discussion regarding the additional legal expenses incurred by the Town due to COVID-19 and the necessary postponement of Town elections and ATM.

Further discussion regarding the CARES Act funds available to the Town.

Question from Advisory: Our FY ends on June 30, so what is the concern regarding the legal budget based on?

- It is anticipated that the Town will exceed its legal budget in May and June.

Question from Advisory: Does this increase in budget include services related to the negotiation of the CBAs?

- Town does not use lawyers to negotiate the CBAs; they review the MOUs, but don't negotiate

Question from Advisory: Is this a "want to have" just in case or is it a "need to have"?

- It is a need to have. There is no question the Town will need additional funds for legal expenses.

Roll Call vote taken; motion passed 14-0.

Motion for favorable action on Article 7, Motion 6 by Julie Bryan; Mary Scanlon seconded.

Discussion regarding the need for an additional appropriation of \$9000 for the paving of Dale street. Opportunity has presented itself as the Town finishes project on Worcester Road to do the paving at a reduced cost from what was previously estimated and below independent bid previously received.

Roll Call vote taken; motion passed 14-0.

Discussion of changes to budget since prior vote.

Approved

Only change from prior vote was due to moving the police and fire department CBAs from Article 8 to Article 5.

Motion to rescind prior votes on Article 8, Motions 2 and 3 and Article 2 by Julie Bryan; Paul Merry seconded.

Roll Call vote taken; motion passed 14-0.

Motion for favorable action on Article 8, Motion 2 by Julie Bryan; Betsy Roberti seconded.

Roll Call vote taken; motion passed 14-0.

Motion for favorable action on Article 8, Motion 3 by Julie Bryan; Mary Scanlon seconded.

Roll Call vote taken; motion passed 14-0.

Motion for favorable action on Article 2 by Julie Bryan; Mary Scanlon seconded.

Roll Call vote taken; motion passed 14-0.

Discussion regarding Article 3, Motion 1, which was tabled from the last Advisory Meeting.

Discussion regarding the consent agenda process and appropriateness of having the CBAs on the consent agenda.

Roll Call vote taken on Article 3, Motion 1; motion passed 9-5.

Discussion of minutes from May 20.

Motion to approve minutes by Julie Bryan; Ralph Tortorella seconded.

Roll Call vote taken; minutes approved 12-0-2.

Liaison reports (none)

Motion to adjourn by Lina Musayev seconded by Mary Scanlon.

Roll call vote taken; motion to adjourn passed 14-0.