

Foxborough Advisory Committee

Wednesday, March 14th 2018 *minutes given by Thom*

In attendance:

Thom Freeman, Stephanie McGowan, Sean McCarthy, Bernard Dumont, Seth Ferguson, Larry Ooi, Jennifer Frank-Bonnet, Robert Canfield

MINUTES

7:15PM - Meeting called to order by Bernard Dumont

Bernard initiated discussion of plans for future schedule/calendar for ADCOMM.

7:20PM – Warrant Article #12

Randy Scollins presented ADCOMM with an updated copy of the Town Meeting Warrant. Randy then detailed the Regional 911 facility to be located in Foxborough. He then proceeded to explain how the preliminary assessment to each participating town would be levied equally.

Next, Randy explained the Budget Adjustment to the OPEB funding for FY2018. There has been an increase in covered liability due to new actuarial tables demonstrating longer lifespans and teachers retiring earlier. These factors added \$2.5M to the town's liability. The increase is \$100K up to a total of \$964K for 2018.

*Bernard asked if this was affected by payroll increases – and what about over the next 10 years.

**Randy replied that this calculation is a simple ratio and that the town is still positioned well going forward.

7:40PM – Warrant Article #13

Randy Scollins gave a brief explanation as to the nature and scope of the current Revolving Accounts that were established in the bylaws in 2017. It is recommended that the previous year's allotments remain the same excepting to increase the Rec Dept by \$25K.

*Bernard asked whether the #s warrant \$50K for the Highway account

*Sean then asked about the low balance in the Highway account.

8:12PM – Warrant Article #17

The Fire Chief addressed the ADCOMM to give new testimony regarding a request submitted to the State for a parcel of land on Rte 140. The parcel lies next to the Shell gas station. Thanks were given to Sen. Feeney and Rep. Barrows for their work in advocating for the land bequeathal. It was floated, the idea, if there is a need for substations, to which the Chief said it was not immediate.

*Chief was asked if there was a timetable for required action on the property once acquired.

**it was explained that there was no deadline for use, but should the town no longer wish to pursue the intended project, Foxborough can either return the land to the State or submit a request for a different use/purpose. Additionally, it was iterated that the existing staffing was adequate.

**Bill Keegan made it clear that whenever land becomes available, the town will take it and plan to use it in the future.

The chief stated that the Fire Department is not looking to buy land for town use. This application is to plan for future expansion to improve response times while there is an actual interest by the State gov't to make the land available. Furthermore, Senator Feeney is attempting to include funding for a station in state spending plans.

*Larry Ooi asked how much a station on this property would cost today.

\$2.5M – \$3M was the Fire Department response.

8:30PM – Warrant Article #19

Bill Keegan addressed the proposal to modify the make-up of the CIP committee and its annual process.

Concerns include:

- 1) The optics of the committee being self-serving
- 2) The committee could be meeting over several months rather than for just one day
- 3) The nomination by the Town Moderator of 2 additional members for 3-year terms (town employees would be ineligible)
- 4) Concern that the committee would not be able to meet on an emergency basis (moderator says it 'inferred')

*Sean McCarthy recused himself from the ADCOMM to present at the table his take-away from the financial 'summit'. Sean said the current CIP incarnation has no long-term financial mission. Also, there is no public input (just dept heads, ADCOMM and BOS). He suggested that the timetable could be moved up earlier to allow for more scrutiny/debate. This new format could create a method for the regular funding of stabilization accounts. Items > \$1M would have to be presented to the town in a separate Warrant Article while items > \$500K could be recommended for its own Warrant Article.

*Stephanie McGowan indicated that she was worried about inherent biases by CIP members.

**Bill Keegan said the new CIP would be like the ADCOMM but including 3 departments who likely have larger Capital Budget expenditures (School – Water – Public Works) plus BOS

*Seth Ferguson suggested the Board look at the first 2 pages. It was agreed to hold off on the Planning Board and Police Budgets until representatives could attend to respond to questions. It was further suggested that the Fire budget be reduced to 2018 levels.

**Bill Keegan indicated that Chief Hatfield had already agreed to reduce by \$6K

*Sean McCarthy stated that most departments wait until the end of the fiscal year when it knows what funds it has left for expenses.

Bernard called for a vote to change the Fire Expenses to the 2018 level.

VOTE: 1 - 7 - 0

Next, the total expenses was called to vote.

VOTE: 8 - 0 - 0

10:37PM - Minutes

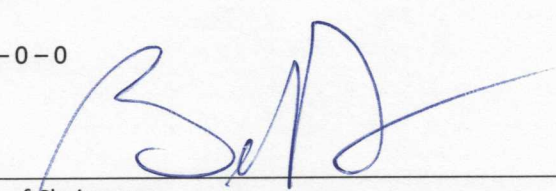
Bernard asked the Board if they were prepared to vote on minutes for February 28th - the answer was NO.

10:45PM - Adjournment

Bernard made a proposal to Adjourn

Thom F. - 2nd

VOTE: 8 - 0 - 0



Signature of Chairperson



Signature of Vice Chairperson