

**Foxborough Advisory Committee**

**Wednesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> 2018**

In attendance:

**Thom Freeman, Stephanie McGowan, Sue Dring, Bernard Dumont, Seth Ferguson, Larry Ooi, Brent Ruter, Michelle Raymond, Robert Canfield, Sharon Weiskerger**

MINUTES

7:05PM - Meeting called to order by Bernard Dumont

Randy Scollins proceeded to explain the End of fiscal year Transfers.

Transfers are disbursed via 2 conduits:

- 1) ADCOMM Reserve Fund: capped at \$75,000
- 2) Town Mgr Transfers – where TMgr is given non-school bottom line autonomy

Funds may be transferred anytime during the fiscal year but are generally held off until June 30<sup>th</sup> to affix greater accuracy and allow for full expenditure of departmental budgets.

\*Sue D asked for clarification on the \$72K figure to the ADCOMM account.

\*\*Randy S replied that all included expenses were \$101K. He continued that 'he is not one to budget in savings until they are realized, but this is how the contract was negotiated with the electric company. We expect to see the electric savings to kick in in 2019.'

\*Seth F inquired as to the total expenses to National Grid = \$201K?

\*\*Randy S said the Reserve \$\$, when it comes in, goes to the General Fund,

\*Thom F asked about the "lease" mentioned in the request.

\*\*Randy S confirmed that this is a 'lease to own' over 5 years for equipment.

\*Stephanie M asked if the Electric Engagement plan was or wasn't a part of these calculations

\*\* Randy S said it was not.



Bernard D made a motion to accept the ADCOMM Transfer in the amount of \$75,000.00 [as is]. {2<sup>nd</sup> Stephanie}

VOTE: 10 – 0 – 0

Bernard made the motion to accept the Town Manager's Transfer in the amount of \$92,000.00 [as is]. {2<sup>nd</sup> Thom}

VOTE: 10 – 0 – 0

7:35PM

Bernard asked Randy about the need for a new Secretary/Minutes Taker.

Michelle asked who is responsible for filling that position.

Randy S & Bill Keegan both stated that the ADCOMM is responsible.

Bernard then made a proposal going forward that the ADCOMM assign the acceptance by vote of the prior meeting's Minutes as the first Agenda item. He also implored the committee to read through the agenda items prior to each meeting to prepare pointed questions for the business before the committee.

Bernard then wanted to give perspective to where Foxborough's budget stands today in relation to where the % increases project it to be in the not-to-distant future.

FY2019 = \$75.9M

@ + ~3.5M/yr

FY2024 (5 years) = ~\$88M-92M

FY2029 (10 years) = ~\$100M

Bernard continued: the Town needs to structurally change budgets. For instance: cutting \$20K in a \$100M budget proves to be rather insignificant. The town and this committee need to look to address bigger issues. 90% of the School budget is consumed by salaries.



7:50PM – Frank Spillane addressed the ADCOMM

Frank S said that he had been asked to explain the legalities and parameters regarding televising ADCOMM meetings on Cable Access like the BOS meetings.

Franks opinion was that the ADCOMM should refrain from televising its meetings. His concerns included:

- 1) Social Media issues/concerns
- 2) Filming could hurt the committee's job
- 3) As the Town Moderator, Frank believes it is the citizen's job to bring forward issues, not the ADCOMM's job to solicit.

\*Bernard D asked if other towns televise their Budget Committee meetings.

\*\*Frank S said that some do ... some towns televise everything.

\*Bernard D referred to 'transparency' – would TV do us (this committee) justice?

\*\*Frank S stated that it would be timelier, but in the end, he recommended against it.

\*Stephanie M was concerned about instant social media reaction.

\*Larry O voiced his misgivings that it was not a good idea.

\*Robert C stated that he was originally FOR TV until he was stopped by 3 people at Town Meeting who voiced their displeasure at his voting record.

\*Brent R opined that for ELECTED officials, he is FOR televised sessions; but for APPOINTEES (VOLUNTEERS) the process is important and it works comfortably as currently implemented.

\*Seth F said while it may be 'cool' to be on TV, there are avenues that already exist for citizens to participate and petition the committee.

\*Michelle R shared that she had no personal issue, but the fact that some others do should hold some weight. We are volunteers. Michelle continued that the BOS also see these same issues on their agenda and those meetings are telecast for the public.

\*Sharon W concurred with the idea to put Minutes acceptance 1<sup>st</sup> on the regular meeting agenda – that the committee shouldn't move forward without tying up loose ends. As for televised meetings, she voiced concern that people might feel inhibited on screen – that the 'watchful eye' can have a psychological effect on ADCOMM members.

\*Sue D said that in her concern for time: "ditto!".

\*Michelle R spoke to the opinion that televised proceedings could provide a political platform. Changing direction, she followed up by asking if 'someone' could explain to the voters at Town Meeting how the ADCOMM arrived at its votes.



\*Bernard D asked what guidance Frank could give to the committee on TM protocols. For example: while the committee may vote in favor of an article, can a minority voice present at TM. The presenter may actually have the best depth of knowledge on the issue.

\*\*Frank S stated that the Moderator at TM has allowed for a dissenting presentation. Frank S also addressed the subject of ADCOMM members stepping off the stage to address TM. He stated that any member does not lose their right to speak or write to the public; just take time to think about the potential impact.

\*Stephanie M surmised that perhaps it would be better to wait for others to address the voters. The position a member holds may be voiced from the floor, negating the need for taking to the mic.

VOTE: 5-0-0  
\*Seth F suggested that the committee vote on a 'step down' policy.

\*\*Frank S reminded ADCOMM that the committee could not vote to take away someone's rights; nor could it enforce that policy. Frank S also commented on conflicts of interest – that perception outweighs actuality. Furthermore, the ADCOMM can reject a contract recommendation. As an example, in Article 4, ADCOMM's influence can make residents aware that new positions are temporary or part-time. ADCOMM can hold out a position and explain that it is holding those expenses – but it was suggested that ADCOMM pick impactful items.

VOTE: 8-0-0  
It was next proposed that the ADCOMM not consider budget items that have not been voted on by the BOS. ADCOMM should be cognizant of greater transparency which, in turn, could lead to greater participation by the public.

\*Michelle R iterated that in regards to ADCOMM agendas going forward, the committee should keep to the schedule timing constraints, only to be voted to extend time, as opposed to having a wholly open-ended meeting.

Bernard made the motion to accept the ADCOMM Minutes from 4/4/2018. (2nd Stephanie)  
\*Larry O suggested that we have a standing agenda item for new/old business as well as the option to discuss what items to add to the next meeting schedule.

Bernard made the motion to accept the ADCOMM Minutes from 4/11/2018. (2nd Brent)

VOTE: 8-0-0

Bernard made the motion to accept the ADCOMM Minutes from 4/24/2018. (2nd Larry)

VOTE: 8-0-0

Bernard made the motion to accept the ADCOMM Minutes from 4/25/2018. (2nd Rob)

VOTE: 8-0-0



9:15PM – Chairman/Vice-Chairman Voting

Stephanie M nominated Thom Freeman for ADCOMM Vice-Chairman. {2nd Brent}

VOTE: 9 – 0 – 1

Stephanie M nominated Sue Dring for ADCOMM Chairman. {2nd Brent}

VOTE: 10 – 0 – 0

10:45PM – Adjournment

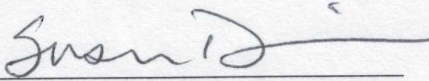
Bernard made a proposal to Adjourn {2<sup>nd</sup> Sharon}

VOTE: 10 – 0 – 0


Minutes approved by Vote of the Advisory Committee.

Date of Meeting: 9-5-18

Vote: 9-0-0

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Signature of Chairperson

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Signature of Vice Chairperson