

Foxborough Advisory Committee

Wednesday, March 20th 2019

In attendance:

Sean McCarthy, Bernard Dumont, Seth Ferguson, Larry Ooi, Sharon Weiskerger, Jennifer Frank-Bonnet, Michelle Raymond, Brian Guild, Stephanie M

MINUTES

7:00PM - Meeting called to order by Seth Ferguson.

Vote: 8 – 0 – 0

Seth F – made the motion to accept March 6th 2019 Minutes.

Sharon W requested that this motion be tabled to be able to review them first.

Vote: 8 – 0 – 0

7:05PM – Police Cruisers

Lt. Mike Grace presented information regarding the budget request for new police cruisers. Originally the request was for 4 vehicles, subsequently it was adjusted down to 3. 4 cruisers currently in rotation have 91K / 95K / 95K / 112K miles. While these are 'fixed' assets, the maintenance costs rise as the vehicles pass 100K miles. If the vehicles are ordered now, they can be equipped and delivered by October.

Sharon W – What years were these cars built?

Lt Grace – All 4 are from 2015.

Seth F – If instead of doing all 4, what if the town purchased 2 and 2; or even schedule for 3/year on out?

Lt Grace – We currently run 13 cruisers.

Seth – Is there any newer equipment in the new cars?

Lt Grace – All are most able to re-use equipment, but some design differences make it impossible to retro-fit custom devices. The tech seems to expire sooner than the equipment running it. Each cruiser will have a defibrillator; each cruiser will have a rifle.

Larry O – Are these all cars or SUVs?

Lt Grace – Everything is an SUV now. Ford has discontinued building Interceptors (sedans).

Brian G – It is a competitive process?

Lt Grace – The town uses the State bid list. Each vehicle costs @ \$56K loaded (\$48K + lights and computers)

Seth F – Is the Department looking only to domestic models?

Lt Grace – We are consciously trying to keep the tech the same as in town maintenance.

Bernard D – Are we catching up?

Lt Grace – We are always in a state of catching up – the newest Detective vehicle is 2014.

Bernard D – What is the net after trade-in?

Lt Grace – Older cars are kept for details, such as at the Stadium, but they yield diminishing returns.

Bill K – We could auction them – that could return more money.

Sean M – Are those cruisers un-compensated by the Stadium?

Lt Grace – We do get detail \$\$ for traffic posts with the older vehicles.

Sean M – Are the new requested officers related to the new vehicle request? Are they part of the town's 5-year plan? What if there are no new officers to the station?

Bill K – The new vehicles are now added to the budget every year. We have been able to save in other areas (i.e. health care costs) – we may be able to re-add later.

7:20PM – Article #14 (Burrell School Project Funding Correction)

Bill Yukna presented an explanation for the error which necessitated this Article. At the Special Town Meeting in October 2018, \$64K for construction was re-allocated from the original \$700K funding. This amount was missed and not accounted for when presented to the MSBA. The funds have been moved from the Feasibility Fund to Construction. The MSBA had already approved their 56% grant – the \$64K difference would have meant we would miss bonding.

Larry O – So you're calling this a 'technical error' and not an additional expense?

Bill Y – That is correct.

7:30PM – Article #5 (Capital CIP)

Bill Keegan proceeded to give his synopsis of the CIP Committee proceedings of March 9th 2019. He stated that typically there is not enough money for every departmental request. The Committee used some creative thinking to move dollars in order to cover more items.

Most of the discussion focused on the future development of the Town Common space. Every year the town receives more questions regarding the lack of holiday decorations. The enormity of the space requires numerous sites and electrical upgrades to make the entire area code compliant. The Capital portion is to upgrade electrical conduits, wires, light stations. The estimate of \$50K is for Phase 1; we would like to fund for quality and longevity. In consult with other committees, it was acknowledged that Foxborough has not invested in the Common's infrastructure in many, many years and that this project may run as high as \$150K.

The project on 140 utilizes 2 funds. \$150K was allocated that the town will use. The need was not identified earlier, however, it does need BOS approval. Some of what may be leftover may go to the neighborhoods. The Water & Sewer items are self-funded. \$984K in Free Cash / \$50K in mitigation funds / \$3.19M from Water. The total expense is \$3,556,990.

The town cut back funding to IT, voting machines, the grass sweeper and the demolition of the Payson Field house which amounted to \$220,000.

Bernard D – About the money for the Common – the flag pole?

Bill K – That was \$35K and was raised by citizen donations.

Larry O – Can we burn the Payson House down, perhaps as a training exercise? We own it now.

Sean M – I was wanting to get a full plan from the CIP meeting.

Stephanie M – What is the cost to demo the building?

Bill K – The estimate is @ \$150K - \$50K for the demolition and \$100K for the abatements and poisons clean-up.

Sean M – How is the Water & Sewer apportioned?

Bill K - \$1.394M in Water Service receipts / \$384K in Sewer receipts.

Larry O – What about the Recreation request?

Bill K – There is another \$50K coming from Communications.

Sean M – I have reservations facing the 5-Year plan; regarding the Booth Playground, will there be no additional calls next year?

Bill K – The cost is \$85K and no, there will be no additional costs to the town.

Stephanie M – The Rec Dept and Friends of Foxborough Recreation will kick in more.

Bill K – It is a good project with a play surface that should last 5 years.

Sean M – That's my point: are extended costs being planned for?

Bill K – They will have to re-seal it, which did not sound prohibitively expensive.

Sean M – Who will follow-up for State grants?

Bill K – Facilities will pursue if there is any money to be found. Lighting is not included in the playground funding.

Sean M – Is there no plan in effect for the Town Common? The funding was moved from \$150K to \$50K for the start of integrating new conduits – which is a must for meeting safety standards.

Michelle R – How much would the renovation of the grandstand cost?

Bill K – That hasn't been considered yet.

Sean M – Regarding IT (Aaron Hyre) \$190K in 'Network Hardware' for schools - how is it managed? Where is the oversight?

Bill Y – So much now is automated at the High School; I'm surprised that figure is not higher. The school is now replacing computers every 3 years due to advanced networking. I can ask Aaron to come to a meeting; there's not much scrutiny. The Building Dept software upgrades were very expensive.

Bill K – The IT Dept services many departments and includes a GIS component. All is integrated.

Chris Lavolette – This GIS tool allows Revenue to peel back to see all docs and permits pulled for a property.

Sean M – Is this software proprietary – do we own it? What if we change in 3 years?

Bill K – There is no cost to upload, but we should ask Aaron for particular details. Never has Water & Sewer had better support.

Sean M – Camera works – proprietary ... are we susceptible to crazy licensing deals?

Bill K – There is a new \$5M Statewide grant program that the town may be able to tap into.

Larry O – For a resident to connect to Sewer costs @ \$30K for labor and materials; why can't the town do this?

Bill K - The DPW is looking to make that happen.

Sean M – The street sweeper was transferred to the Water & Sewer budget – citizens are still paying for that in their water bills. The optics of moving that expense at the meeting were bad.

Bill K – The new MS4/Stormwater mandate requires cleaner streets and will pay off as a benefit. It is a \$55K/year on a 4-year lease versus \$500K to outright buy it.

Stephanie M – Will someone get the Police Chief's real salary numbers to the ADCOMM?

Chris L – We will get that to you.

8:05PM - Warrant Article Review and Voting

Article #11 – Stabilization Fund

Bernard was going to look at 3 prior years; there was no challenge as the figures were the same for previous years.

Seth F asked about retiree pensions, if they were fully-funded

Stephanie M – stated that she was at the BOS meeting where Chris I said that the ADCOMM supported the new Water & Sewer position. She told the BOS that no, ADCOMM did not. They said it was not a different position, just the funding source changed – Water & Sewer say they pay the pension. \$51K/Water + \$12K/Sewer for each employee.

Seth made the motion to accept Article #11

Stephanie M - 2nd

Vote: 9 – 0 – 0

Article #20 – Planning Board article for by-law updates/maintenance/marijuana

Sean M made the motion to accept Article #20

Jennifer F-B - 2nd

Vote: 9 – 0 – 0

Article #23 – Road Acceptance

Sharon W made the motion to accept Article #23

Seth F - 2nd

Vote: 9 – 0 – 0

Article #24 – Water System Improvements

Stephanie M mentioned that Roger reported that the town has 17 miles of piping to replace; 4 miles has already been done. It will take \$11M to bond the project.

Michelle R stated that the Article says 'figure to be determined' – that it is a place holder. Can we vote on this?

Sean M – You're the lawyer...

Michelle R – The way it is written, that figure is still in question. If I am to read the Article with a blank at TM, shouldn't we have a dollar amount to vote? I want a number for FY2020.

Stephanie M – I can reach out to Chris or Roger: if it's an easy figure, I'll note it; if it's complicated, I'll ask them to come in to explain.

Larry O – Seth, we need an updated CIP sheet with all the adjustments made.

Sean M – I have questions for Aaron: cameras for the police station, other town services, proprietary/licensing costs.

Sean M made the motion to accept Article #20

Jennifer F-B - 2nd

Vote: 9 – 0 – 0

Article #27 – Planning Board / Smoke Shop Defined

Michelle R – This is my Article and I think I want to have Paige Duncan here to talk more in depth as to these by-law provisions. They're trying to be proactive. The language in the zoning by-laws to deal with this situation. If a business wants to come to the center of town, these codes are to help push it to designated areas.

Jennifer F-B – Is this a placeholder to later ban things like vaping from convenience stores>

Michelle R – A 21+ store is not appropriate for downtown.

Seth F – It is an attempt to define what is a tobacco/smoke store – it would relegate it to Route 1.

Jennifer F-B – It sets up to move vaping choices out of convenience stores.

Michelle R – It's not just a smoke shop removal: Article #14 updates the definition of vaping products. People show up assuming we have the most recent documents; they think info submitted didn't get to ADCOMM.

Larry O – Can we vote to lower the CIP dollar amount?

Michelle R / Sean M – Yes, we can reduce it.

Seth F – Technically, the town needs to meet the statute. ADCOMM could vote to reduce, but it would only be a recommendation.

Larry O – Can the DPW help the playground rebuild or does the full \$85K go to the contractors?

Sean M – They start with a number and then we spend it all.

Seth F – A new committee could be an ADCOMM for CIP.

Sean M – I'm troubled by the last-minute shifting of the funding on the street sweeper.

Stephanie M – Many good things have been funded...

Seth F – Watch the CIP meeting on cable. Think about what is actionable. What can ADCOMM do about it? If we complain about the process, should we counter their actions by removing \$50K?

Stephanie M – The Water & Sewer position: we can say to reduce by the value of a person.

Seth F – Make that presentation.

Stephanie M – There's no top to salaries increasing 2% Step + 2% COLA

Sean M – They gave in to 4% but reduced the number of Steps. All we can do is lower the total – we can't micromanage individuals.

There was discussion about an across-the-board cut of salaries with Seth F speaking to reduce the proposal. He said to send a message, the only way is to go after salary budgets, but that it probably wouldn't have the desired effect because departments would cut materials from total budgets – it's easier than lay-offs or hours reductions. A 2% cap was offered as a different proposal.

9:30PM

Seth F – made the motion for Adjournment

Larry O - 2nd

Vote: 9 – 0 – 0

Minutes approved by Vote of the Advisory Committee.

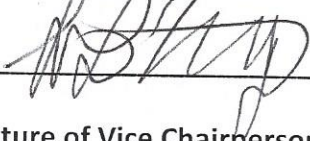
Date of Meeting: 20 March 2019

Vote:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Susan D.", written above a horizontal line.

Signature of Chairperson



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. D. P.", written above a horizontal line.

Signature of Vice Chairperson