

Foxborough Advisory Committee

Wednesday, April 22nd, 2020

In attendance:

Bernard Dumont, Seth Ferguson, Thom Freeman, Jr., Sharon Weiskerger, Jack Martin, Larry Ooi, Dennis Keefe, Paul Ivanovskis, Dan Peterson, Brian Guild

MINUTES

7:03PM - Meeting called to order by Seth Ferguson

7:05PM - Veteran's Services

Ally Rodriguez appeared before the ADCOMM for a review of her departmental budget for FY2021. She reaffirmed the state will reimburse the town at a rate of 75% of total expenses for ordinary services. Seth Ferguson claimed that the budget seemed rather straightforward. No further committee questions.

Seth F – made the motion to accept the budget for Dept #543

Dan P - 2nd

Vote: 10 – 0 – 0

7:15PM - Health Department

Pauline Zajdel appeared before the ADCOMM and was promptly asked 'What's happening?'

Paul I – What happens when we all get back to business?

Pauline Z – It will be wild to start. We will still try to increase inspections and their fees even without the additional position requested.

Paul I – Bill Keegan held off adding to departmental headcounts, but that decision may be reviewed again in the fall. How might that affect your department?

Dennis K – there are reports that the Feds may make \$\$ available to cities and towns in the fall.

Seth F – It seems to be a 'wait-and-see' at this point.

Paul I – But how will this affect the department?

Pauline Z – We will need resources when businesses re-open.

Seth F – Any new regulations to deal with?

Pauline Z – We are working with a lot of patience, right now.

Seth F – made the motion to accept the budget for Dept #510

Sharon W - 2nd

Vote: 10 – 0 – 0

Pauline Zajdel continued her presentation with information on Department #520 – Membership in the ARC collective of Norfolk County. Pauline reminded the board of the tremendous work this partnership affords the town for mental and developmental disability needs. The budget line has not changed in over a decade.

Bernard D – Is this where the town ‘lost’ its Health Nurse?

Pauline Z – No, this is specifically for the ARC.

Seth F – made the motion to accept the budget for Dept #520

Dan P - 2nd

Vote: 10 – 0 – 0

7:30PM – Council on Aging

Marc Craig presented his budget with the reduction of \$45,500 in professional services. This could return in the fall at town meeting as part of a feasibility study. Marc stated that there has been an increase on social services to those under 18 but that there has also been a large increase in outreach to those who may be alone or living under dangerous or compromised situations. Staff have also been making many deliveries of services – and he has plenty of stats to back it up.

Seth F – made the motion to accept the budget for Dept #510

Dennis K - 2nd

Vote: 10 – 0 – 0

7:39PM – Library

Seth Ferguson stated that he would remove himself as an interested party; Larry Ooi presided this portion of the meeting. Manny Leite presented for the Library and led off by reminding everyone that the Boyden Library is CLOSED, but that they are making plans for re-opening. Most of the budget is consistent.

Larry O – When do you think the Library can re-open?

Manny L – We are currently making a new floorplan to enhance safe distancing and reduced contact. We are hopeful for allowing visitors by the Summer. Keeping everyone safe, guests and workers is the priority.

Jack M - There is \$30K for 2 retirees, is that still in effect?

Manny L - 1 is a definite retiree – the other has not yet committed.

Dennis K – You have done a good job advocating for the Library, we may need to revisit your other requests in the fall.

Larry O – made the motion to accept the budget for Dept #610

Thom F - 2nd

Vote: 9 – 0 – 1

7:47PM - Recreation

Deb Giardino appeared before the ADCOMM for a review of her departmental budget for FY2021. She affirmed that the only budget line is her compensation with a 3% increase. The department is run through a revolving fund and self-sustaining. No further committee questions.

Seth F – made the motion to accept the budget for Dept #630

Paul I - 2nd

Vote: 10 – 0 – 0

7:50PM - Historical Commission

Mark Ferencik appeared before the ADCOMM for a review of his departmental budget for FY2021. Mark stated that this budget was the same as the prior year.

Thom F – Are there any CIP requests for this year?

Mark F – The Commission did not seek Memorial Hall funds and it was able to complete its burial upgrades this year.

No further committee questions.

Seth F – made the motion to accept the budget for Dept #691

Bernard D - 2nd

Vote: 10 – 0 – 0

8:00PM - Seth Ferguson reported that the School Department budget request remains unchanged from its last proposal. We will be seeing the Public Works/Water & Sewer departments back again.

Jack M – I am concerned that we should be looking at everything after reviewing new revenue/expense projections.

Seth F – Next week we will be speaking with Bill Keegan and George Samia regarding the Revenue side.

Larry O – I can send everyone the Boston Federal Reserve Bank analysis.

Dan P – How do they move money around? Larry assures it goes to Free Cash while Jack says we should look at all of it. “We may need this.”

Seth F – The FY2021 School budget does not rely on savings in FY2020 for its approval. We will need an assessment of variables such as class sizes, supplies, food, staffing.

Sharon W – I feel the same. There will be a ‘new normal’ for ALL departments as they return to operation.

Bernard D – Are we expecting bill Keegan to deliver a balanced budget? It needs to be balanced.

Larry O - I reached out to Bill Keegan about Revenue projections. He is going to deliver a new/revised budget to the BOS next week.

Dennis K – We are missing the context of revenues when adjusting downward only 2% of original budget.

Seth F – The school budget was voted on once; across various public *** to revote on revised budgets. We could hold until after this committee’s conversation with Bill Keegan on revisions. We do still need to meet our Warrant obligations.

Larry O – We should revisit where Bill Keegan cut.

Dennis K – If there was a view by this committee that Revenues decrease by 10% would we look at everything we have done.

Larry O – If the BOS is cutting items, we should address them too.

8:30PM – Public Works

Seth F – made the motion to accept the budget for Dept #410

Dennis K – I thought that Chris Gallagher was very thorough.

Thom F - 2nd

Vote: 10 – 0 – 0

Water Department

It was pointed out that the Account Clerk position was removed. Further discussion examined the original amounts versus new adjusted numbers.

Seth F – We can vote the bottom line while agreeing on the components.

Thom F – made the motion to accept the budget for Dept #450

Brian G - 2nd

Vote: 10 – 0 – 0

Sewer Enterprise

There was a reduction of \$5500 from the Sewer budget due to its responsible portion of the Account Clerk position that was removed.

Seth F – made the motion to accept the budget for Dept #460

Dan P - 2nd

Vote: 10 – 0 – 0

8:50PM – Seth Ferguson shared some thoughts on the CIP meeting he attended as ADCOMM Chair. What went in was vastly different from what came out of that meeting. The analysis was tight and thorough. The results are not valid until voted on and accepted at Town Meeting.

Larry O – Brian, can you provide an update from the Personal Wage Board regarding the current contract negotiations?

Brian G – There’s been nothing to report yet.

9:00PM - Adjournment

Seth F – made the motion for Adjournment

Dan P - 2nd

Vote: 10 – 0 – 0

Minutes approved by Vote of the Advisory Committee.

Date of Meeting: 22 April 2020

Vote:

Signature of Chairperson

Signature of Vice Chairperson