

**Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Town of Foxborough**  
**Wednesday September 15, 2021**

**Members in Attendance: Sharon Weiskerger, Paul Ivanovskis, John Mahoney, Jack Martin, Dan Peterson, Dennis Keefe, Marlowe Farrar, Raffaella Zizza-Feinstein, Salina Chowdhury**

Meeting start 7:00 p.m.

**1. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – June 23, 2021**

Paul requested approval of the minutes for June 23, 2021, amended to show the appropriate date at the top. A motion was made to accept the amended minutes, and it was seconded. Members not present at that meeting abstained, all others voted to approve.

Vote: 5-0-4

**2. Town Manager Update, Bill Keegan**

The Town Manager updated the Committee on the status of the recently-closed window for warrants for the fall Special Town Meeting.

There are 21 articles for consideration, and he recommended that the AdCom look at scheduling hearing dates. The warrant must be signed and submitted 14 days prior to meeting of November 15th.

Warrants consist mainly of two categories:

- 1) Zoning by-law changes, and 3 street acceptances
- 2) OPEB – funding the delayed payment of OPEB from meal taxes

He provided some additional details on some warrants:

- Southeastern Regional School District is a budget issue, we will likely be paying in \$38,000 more.
- We have to amend the water and sewer map any time someone wants to join the area.
- We've had difficulty hiring police officers for several years, and new Civil Service legislation will make that even more difficult. Foxborough had already been removing employees from Civil Service, we would like to continue that.
- The Commission on Disability bylaw amendment is intended to change how many people are on the committee.
- Gillette is looking to build new building, a portion of which will be on Town Land. Gillette looking to swap. The financial gain for us will be the ability to get more rent from property already occupied. A lease amendment will also be required.
- The CIP Committee by-law update is to amend how the water/sewer member is appointed.
- Child Sexual Abuse – he will have more information on this by end of week.

- Sewer Easement School Street – this is a placeholder for future discussion

Bill also provided an update on the American Rescue Plan:

- We have already received the first half (\$950K) of the money distributed directly to towns, and should have access to the first half (\$1.75M) of funds distributed to the counties within the next month.
- The Treasury Department is still finalizing the rules for how that money is used, but he did note that if you have a revenue loss from COVID, you can sometimes use some of these funds to replace lost revenue.

Other items:

- Free cash has dropped due to Pandemic.
- Revenue has picked up this year. Although, we don't have many concerts on the books this year, there are other things such as football, soccer, Monster jam, etc. Hotel and restaurants are up this year. Calendar 2022 is looking to be a great year for shows at the stadium.
- One of Bill's concerns is that housing market is skyrocketing in Foxborough. As a result, taxes are going up, and that's a real problem. His solution is to provide the best services for the least amount of increase as possible.

### **3. Discussion/vote on televising of Advisory Committee Meetings**

The committee discussed at length, all members contributing, whether to televise advisory committee meetings, in particular

- Whether the holding of meetings open to the public, publication of minutes, and accessibility of the chair and vice-chair via email, were already sufficiently open to the public.
- The already-existing difficulties in staffing an unpaid, volunteer committee.
- The additional stresses on FCA, also volunteers, especially in the Spring.

A motion was made and seconded for the Advisory Committee to televise their meetings going forward. The motion failed.

Vote: 1-8-0

**8:40 p.m. Paul I. – Asked for motion to adjourn meeting.** Motion received and seconded. Members approved 9-0-0.