

**Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Town of Foxborough**

**Wednesday April 1, 2021**

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FOXBOROUGH, MA 02035

**In Attendance:** Larry Ooi, Paul Ivanovskis, Thom Freeman, Jack Martin, Dan Peterson, Bradley Palter and John Mahoney. Sharon Weiskerger (remote).

**Minutes:** Taken by Tony Colangelo

**7 p.m. Larry O.**

Larry requested approval of the minutes as is for March 17, 2021. A motion was made to accept the minutes, and it was seconded. Paul I., Thom F., Jack M., Dan P., Sharon W. and Larry O. voted yes to accept. 6-0-0. Brad P. abstained because he wasn't there.

**7:04 p.m. Larry O. – Welcome Bill K., Town Manager, American Rescue Plan Update**

This is still evolving. Town of Foxboro will receive \$1.8 million Direct Federal Aid which we will receive in 2 payments. The 1<sup>st</sup> for FY'21 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> for FY'22 however they have to be spent by FY'24 or lose it. In addition, another \$750,000 will go directly to our school system. We're not clear yet on how exactly we can spend this money but regulations should be completed in 45 days.

Then another \$137 million which will go to Norfolk County to be distributed to their cities and towns. Foxboro can receive another \$3.5 million from this. Thom F. asked, how does Norfolk decide how to distribute, is it divided into the 29 cities and towns? Bill K. answered, it is a per capita distribution of \$197 per capita. However, we need to stay tuned because we don't know all that it can be used for. Can we use it for revenue loss, ie. Gillette Stadium? It is a one-time deal and it won't repeat.

Brad P. asked, is it an issue if you don't use it you lose it? Bill K. stated yes, but we have to sit for a while until we know the regulation are so we can decide what to use it for. Dan P. asked, can we use it to just go to our free cash? Bill K. answered yes, we can. It's already very late in this FY to be able to decide on everything. Thom F. asked, can't be used to lower taxes can it? Bill K. answered, correct, it can't be used to lower taxes or pay pensions. Dan P., asked, can't we use money from one of our other budget items that may meets their requirements and use it for what we decide we need and then when we get their money just use it to replace that our budget. Jack M. commented, all of our money has gone into roads and zero into sidewalks.

Can't we put some of this money into that? Bill K. stated yes, we have to consider that. For the past 2 years we have not been able to spend on maintenance too. John M.?? commented for the Complete Street project, the 40 streets we identified came back with a \$10 million price tag. Bill K. stated, yes, the complete streets we were planning includes roads, bike lanes, and sidewalks, but have been pushed back because of Covid.

Larry O. I want to thank you Bill for this presentation.

**7:19 p.m. Larry O. Welcome Bill Keegan, Town Manager, George Samia, Finance Director - Revised / Final FY 22 Budget.**

We are at a better point than when we started. We will be saving \$1.2 million on health insurance. Our pension estimate is lower. We were concerned about Southeastern MA numbers but now that will be ok, just about even. Our revenue will be up 2.93%. We will only be using \$900,000 in free cash which is lower than originally predicted. Our general overall fund expenses are up 2.76% which is about the same as last year. However, because of the snow removal that has to be added to next year it will up 2.88%. Also, we confirmed our triple 'A' bond rating, with S&P, again for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time which is very complimentary about our budget practice and it gives us a very high rating for bowering money for our projects.

George S. Comment. If we look at everything, it means a lot. We are in a great position.

Thom F. asked, when will the Wall St. project start? Bill K. answered the contractor would like to start in the spring. Mostly a supply budget right now, getting permits and moving forward.

**7:27 p.m. Larry O. Welcome Mike Johns, Assistant Town Manager / HR Director – Town Article #9 thru #11 (FY21)**

These are 3 contracts for 1-year extensions. The steel workers Unit A is for \$35,000, steel workers Unit B for \$39,000 and the Police contract is for \$70,000.

For FY 22 we have 5 contracts. The Police is for \$73,000, Steel Unit A is for \$37,000 and Steel Unit B is for \$41,000. Also, we have the DPW for \$37,000 and the Library for \$24,000. Jack M. asked, what is the difference between Unit A and Unit B? Mike J. answered, Unit A is for dept. heads and supervisors. Unit B is for administrative positions and clerks, etc. Jack M. asked, is it too early to ask for the major details of the contracts? Mike J. stated, we wanted and negotiated for a 1-year contract. The Unions wanted longer but we finally agreed to 1 year. Bill K, stated, we may do a multi-year deal in the future for stability, but we are not out of the dark yet with our current situation. Brad P. asked, compared to other towns are they also doing 1-year deals? Mike J. answered, it's a mix. A lot of towns are doing the 1-year deal and others are doing 2 or 3 years. Brad P. asked, will this make it harder to negotiate a multi-year deal in

the future? Mile J. stated, not really. Bill K. added, I agree, we are in uncertain times and everyone understands. There is an interest on both sides for multi-year in the future.

**7:47 p.m. Larry O. – Discussion on Town Articles**

**Paul I. - Article #6** – Revolving Funds – This is the 2 Revolving Fund for the fire dept. one for vaccines and the other for schools to repair computers, pretty straight forward. Dan P. & Paul I. asked, the vaccine fund should not have a long life correct? Bill K. stated probably not after a few years unless used for some other medical purpose that come up. But the IT fund will be needed and should go forward.

Motion to vote on Article #6. Motion was made and seconded, and all voted yes, 7-0-0.

**Paul I. Article #7** -- Spending Caps -- This is for spending limits for the 2 new revolving funds, as well as the 6 existing. Bill K. stated the cap is what has been set for now, but if we need to, we can go back in the fall. Dan P. asked, just to clarify is this for FY 21 and FY 22? Bill K., yes, just to finish the current and then for FY 22.

Motion to vote on Article #7. Motion was made and seconded, and all voted yes, 7-0-0.

**Paul I. Article #8** – This amends Article #23 from 2 years ago. It replaces a missing clause – a technical correction.

Motion was made to accept and seconded. Voted yes, 7-0-0.

**Thom F. Article #19** – No concerns with this transfer of land on Oak St.

Motion to accept and seconded. Voted yes, 7-0-0.

**John M. Article #21** -- Regarding extending the sewer district over to cover the Condo off Mechanic St. if they want. No concerns.

Motion to accept and seconded. Voted yes 7-0-0.

**Brad P. Article #23** – This is a correction to the Baker St. Historic Map.

Motion to accept and seconded. Voted yes, 7-0-0.

**Jack M. Article #22** -- Have our flood zone map meet the National Standards in order to get insurance for properties.

Motion to approve and seconded. Voted yes, 7-0-0.

**Thom F. Article #24** -- Just a correction of legal record with the building zone code. Bring chart back to where it was.

Motion to accept and seconded. Voted yes, 7-0-0.

**Brad P. Article #25** – Acceptance of Congdon Cir. as part of subdivision. John M. asked, are other parts of a street not a public way? Is this a standard procedure for a street acceptance. Chris G. stated there can be a few transfers of ownership thru a project. This was the last subdivision, everything else has already been accepted.

Motion to approve and seconded. Voted yes, 7-0-0.

**Dan P. Article #26 Citizens Petition** -- Talked with Shelby this week about this following the Selectmen Meeting and we will discuss in our meeting next week. We need to understand why the article is written this way and how we should advise the Town of Foxboro? Bill K. stated, the Town will have to vote on the article as is the Town Meeting, or if a citizen has requested an amendment, they can vote on the petition with the amendment.

**Larry O. Article #27** -- States the only way for a citizen to get a refund thru the town warrant is if is \$2,000 or less.

Motion to approve and seconded. Voted yes 7-0-0.

**Housekeeping Items:** -- Larry O. Please write up a summary of your Articles we reviewed today. Agenda Items for next week: #1. Remaining Articles. #2. Department Budget

**8:24 p.m. Larry O. Motion to Adjourn. It was seconded and approved. Voted 7-0-0.**

*Larry Ooi*