

TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

March 25, 2015

Committee Members Present: Tracey Vasile, Cal Calnan, Larry Stern, Kristin Papianou, Heidi Krockta, Sue Dring, Thom Freeman, John Chlebek , Monica Fisler

Absent: Patrick Mosesso

Others Present: Deb Giardino, Heather Harding, Randy Scollins, Larry Thomas, Bill Keegan, Debra Spinelli, Bruce Gardner, Bill Yukna, Steve Udden, Amy Bardos

Notes taken by: Maham Zia

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 by Tracey.

7:00PM Advisory Committee Discussion and Vote on Articles—

Tracey acknowledged Owen Thornton volunteering at the meeting, working towards his badge.

Article 19 Amend OSRD By-Law

Sue said that the big thing being taken out is the 7.5 acres requirement. There is also a requirement for a buffer that is being taken out. Sharon said that that is because of flexibility. Sue recommended that we approve the article.

Thom motioned to accept Article 19 as written and Kristin seconded.

6/0/1 Larry S abstained.

7:05PM Advisory Committee Discussion and Vote on Budget—

Central Dispatch Department 230

Randy said that the increased salary is due to loss of a grant. Kristin asked when we find out about the grant. Randy said the Chief has been meeting about it but a little extra should be put towards it to soften the blow if we lose the funding. Heidi asked what the fund was. Randy said it was the e99 (?) fund.

Bill K said that the governor is very pro local government and they are hoping that the money will get restored. Heidi asked if the money goes back to free cash. Randy said that it does.

Kristin motioned to accept the Department 230 budget as submitted and Cal seconded.

Vote 7/0/0

Selectmen Department 122

Thom asked if the tablets are only for the Board of Selectmen or other boards get them as well. Bill K said it's a pilot for BOS and they would like to bring to other departments to go paperless. Bill K went over the technology and management system that will be used. Larry S asked if the tablets can be used for personal use. Bill K said that it can be used during meetings but they haven't discussed an overall use policy yet.

Kristin motioned to accept the Department 122 budget as submitted and Cal seconded.

Vote 7/0/0

Administration Department 123

Randy explained that the net change was much smaller than it appeared.

Kristin motioned to accept the Department 123 budget as written and Cal seconded.

6/0/1 Larry S abstained.

Audit Town Reports Department 125

Heidi motioned to accept the Department 125 budget as proposed and Sue seconded.

Vote 6/0/1 Larry S abstained.

Finance Department 130

Randy said increase is due to the recertification process. Expenses went up \$1,300 because of maintenance. Salary is up \$23,000 across the board and evenly split between Randy's increase, project manager, revenue officer, and IT staff. Tracey asked if there are any questions. There were none.

Heidi motioned to accept the Department 130 budget and Kristin seconded.

Vote 7/0/1 Larry S abstain. John arrived.

Advisory Committee Department 141

Heidi motioned to accept the Department 141 budget and Cal seconded.

Vote 8/0/0

Reserve Fund Department 142

Randy said that two transfers were approved and \$43,000 is left that might be needed for legal fees and unemployment.

Kristin motioned to accept the Department 142 budget as submitted and Heidi seconded.

Vote 8/0/0

7:20PM Discussion on Recreation Budget—

Kristin said that there was discussion about how we are contributing towards Deb's salary more. Heather said that they are not requesting more but just shifting accounts from expenses to salary. Kristin said that she understood that but there were more questions.

Tracey asked why the Rec Department isn't completely funding the director's salary. Heather said they can't afford the \$78,480 salary. They fund \$15,000 and taxation covers \$62,000. The average net earnings are \$38,000. That amount is not enough to afford \$62,000 plus benefits per year. Tracey said Rec has biggest revolving account and why that isn't being spent towards the director's salary. Heather said that Tracey was looking at the balance at one point in time, not what is owed and the expenses taken out.

Larry S asked what the yearly surplus is and how far down does it cycle. He thought it was a policy issue. Bill K said that the salary was decided before his time. Larry S asked if Bill K decided to keep that as is, director paid by town and programs by revolving. Heather and Deb pointed out that every town has a director's salary that is 100% is funded by taxation. Heather said that they feel that they should be self sustaining but the director should be paid as town employee.

Heather and Deb pointed out that it wasn't an official policy but the rec board has tried to supplement the director's salary. Heather said that they don't ask for other projects and expenses for repairs because the director is being paid for by town. If not, things would be switched and they would have to ask for money for the facilities or repairs.

Tracey asked Randy if all other dept heads are paid out of taxation. Randy said generally yes, either taxation, or by receipts etc. He also broke down what "taxation" means. He said it's a blanket thing and also involves the revolving account to a degree.

Tracey asked Randy's opinion on whether the Rec Department could fund more of Deb's salary without having to ask for money for the projects. Randy said that Heather has allocated out to facilities as said and they have funds but also a capital plan that the money is flowing towards.

Heather said that that Debbie is already full time but the two part time employees are maxed out on hours. If they increase their hours they become benefitted.

Heidi and Tracey expressed that their discomfort was eased. Heather said that Debbie is also good at looking at other avenues for money.

Sue arrived at 7:30.

7:40PM Discussion on CIP—

Tracey said she, Deb, Bill, Randy, Roger and Lorraine met on the 14th. Bill Y and the two chiefs were there. There is a reduction in bullet proof vests but everything else was funded. Tracey said she changed the Turf Field lighting from 1 to 3 (1 lowest and 5 highest). Tracey said she changed opinion because without the lights the field is not usable for a large majority of the time. The head of lacrosse and soccer came in and they are funding temporary lights currently. Tracey said we have the field and we need to make it usable. Tracey hopes that in 10-12 years there will be funds to repair the field with.

She confirmed that Kristin and Tracey pulled the reports and the lights were in the section and that Tracey had misspoken earlier. Lights were in the first phase.

Tracey asked why the conservation vehicle is still there on the CIP packet just passed out. Randy explained Tracey might be looking at the original requests.

Squad 4 replacement was pulled off by Fire Chief. The Igo School carpets have been approved. Mowers are approved.

Heidi motioned to accept CIP as adjusted and Thom seconded.

Vote 8/1/0 Larry S opposed. (John and Sue included)

Randy said that everyone did a great job and there was a very small amount that was not budgeted.

7:51PM Discussion on Education Budget—

Tracey thanked them for returning. She said she was able to catch Deb, Bill and Bruce and clarify things. She asked about whether classes or positions were being cut. It was actually positions and Deb confirmed. Tracey shared that she felt comfortable after grilling them with questions.

Heidi asked why the teacher salary in the budget appears to have no benefits as it pertains to per pupil spending. Bill Y explained that the benefits were done by Randy's office. Bill Y said that that the benefits were added and coded after. Heidi asked if the \$30 million includes the benefits and Randy's number. Bill Y said no, the 30 million was strictly school budget. It was another 10 million that represented what came from Randy's office. Tracey asked what Heidi's concern about that number is. Heidi said that the number made it look like that number was lower than expected. Deb said that there is a structure and other towns report it in a similar way. Bill Y said that other towns don't fold the Randy's office contributions back

into school when reporting. He said this was an accurate way to report. Heidi asked if the public understands how that budget is represented and what is in it. Bill Y said that he expects that they do. He added that other towns might not even account for it because there is a grey area about reporting what goes towards schools from town financial department.

Heidi asked about 3D printers. Deb said they had two. She said that Invensys supports them with that and it is part of their deal with them. Heidi asked how much Invensys contributed. Deb said that the second printer was not bought but donated. Bill Y said that they have really helped with the STEM initiatives.

Sue asked why we got actuals for 2011 and 2012. Bill Y clarified which are actuals and which are projected. Sue also asked why nurse salaries went up. Deb said that a part time nurse was added to a middle school and to Igo School. Sue said that the Burrell School has a similar jump. Deb said that that jump was because the nurse contracts were brought within the teacher's contract, something they had been lobbying for for three negotiations. Bill Y said that there was also a jump in school nurse qualifications; Department of Education requires additional certification so they had a case for being folded into Education Professionals.

John said that he found two families that are not accounted for who go to other schools. Bill Y said that they had to reach out to the schools and they have to report back. If they report back 0, it's on them. Deb said the census doesn't keep track of eligible students. They find out by sending out to surrounding schools. Tracey asked what John's concern was. John said he wanted to know the trend line of kids not attending public schools here vs those who do. Deb said that there is a possibility that some students are unreported if the private school doesn't report back. It's still a very low number.

Tracey asked if the Fox Charter and Southeastern Regional numbers are 100% right. Deb said she is confident and she can't say 100% accurate because part of the reporting is up to other schools reporting to them and their projections. Tracey asked if the money comes back if not enough students go to the school. It does. Deb added that they have to report very accurately because their funding depends on it.

Thom asked how the comparison between students coming from outside of Foxboro and kids in Foxboro going to private or charter school is. Deb said that the number of kids who leave at the middle school level is usually predictable, around 20. Bill Y said it's usually catholic or religious and it's usually projected.

Heidi asked about tech specialists' availability and responsibility and what the return on investment is. Amy said that they do have set schedules and they have a lot of oversight from state, under state law. She said that they also had strict evaluations. Their performance is also measured in teachers' performances because tech is a category there. Teacher evaluations are also impacted by tech specialists.

Heidi asked if there will be a measurable with the students, related to the tech specialists. Amy said that they support within framework of classroom. They help kids who struggle with tech. Deb gave the example of One Note and Office 365 being used in classrooms and Amy and the specialists would be responsible for making sure that was integrated.

Someone from crowd added that she has noticed the trickle down in the students. Bruce said that as a committee they worry that there are not enough tech specialists. Bruce and Deb said that middle and high

school kids were being tested and minus minor glitches, things worked well. Tracey and Thom added that they had no complaints from their high schoolers.

Steve said that a lot of this has been discussed at the School Committee meetings. One of the themes there is that not tech for tech's sake but making sure that tech can truly be adopted.

8:30PM Advisory Discussion & Vote on Budget—

Randy said that the budget will be balanced on Wednesday but there will still be revisions. Tracey said to stop them if the budgets that are being revised come up. Tracey asked if DPW contract and Publishing will be ready. Bill K said yes to both.

Tracey asked if we get the revised ones by Wednesday. Tracey asked about the pending DPW ones about tying locations to town sewer and who has ability to sell flow. It has not been approved by BOS so we will hold off on it. Tracey asked for an update on personnel bylaw and steel workers. Bill K said he made clear the deadline and is trying to wrap up and present it.

Tracey said that we might be done meeting by the 8th and 15th by latest. The 22nd is not an option though because of break. Bob Cutler will be coming on the 8th. We are going to look at his request for tenure and it will be an open meeting. We can make recommendation by 15th if we need to.

Debt Service Departments 710, 751 & 760

There is a decrease in the budget.

John motioned to accept Department 710, 751, and 760 budgets as adjusted and Monica seconded.

Vote 8/0/0 (Cal Left at 8:34)

Departments 911, 913, 914, 915 & 945

Tracey asked for highlights in Department 911, 913 and 914, 915 and 945 budgets. Randy said pension and assessment is not in their control because Norfolk County controls those. Bill and Randy will meet with them. Randy said this year, there was a lot of fraud and there is a third party reviewing that. The issue may solve itself. Most years this is a contributor to free cash. Tracey asked about jump in consulting. Randy explained that this is due to the OPEB. Tracey asked about general insurance premium. Bill K said that the value of our buildings got looked at and got adjusted. Excise tax.

**Kristin motioned to accept Departments 911, 913, 914, 915 and 945 as proposed and John seconded.
Vote 8/0/0**

Education Department 300

Tracey asked if we are comfortable voting for the education budget. She added that the number didn't impact the budget.

Heidi motioned to accept the Department 300 budget as proposed and Thom seconded.

Vote 8/0/0

Recreation Department 630

Tracey asked if everyone is comfortable voting.

Kristin motioned to accept the Department 630 budget and John seconded.

Vote 8/0/0

Council on Aging and Human Services Department 541

Monica motioned to accept the Department 541 budget and Thom seconded.

Vote 8/0/1 Heidi abstained.

Fire Dept 220

Kristin motioned to accept the Department 220 budget as proposed and Monica seconded.

Vote 7/0/1 Larry S abstain.

8:50 PM Advisory Committee Vote on Meeting Minutes & Adjourn—

Kristin motioned to accept the minutes from 3/11/15 and John seconded.

Vote 7/0/1 Larry S abstained.

Kristin motioned to adjourn and Thom seconded.

Vote 8/0/0

Minutes approved by Vote of the Advisory Committee.

Date of Meeting: April 8, 2015

Tracey Vasile

Signature of Chairperson