

TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

January 14th 2015

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

Members Absent: Javed Hussain, Monica Fisler

Others Present: Randy Scollins, Bill Keagan, Lorraine Brue, Roger Hill, Mike Stanton, Heather Harding, Ginny Coppola, Phil Thompson

Notes taken by: Maham Zia

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

7:00 PM Introduction and General Overview—

Tracey asked about clarification on whether anything would be different if we had not joined IMA or approved 40B. Mike responded that it would not have made a difference. Roger further added that if a town has capacity, than it has to serve sewage to 40Bs. Larry T asked if more projects could appear in that sewage zone. Roger said that he vaguely remembers that there are not many places left with the necessary capacity for more 40B projects. The discussion concluded with Tracey and Larry T stating that it was important to have discussions such as these prior to presenting at Town Meetings.

7:20 PM DPW Director Roger Hill—

Highways—

Heidi started by pointing out a possible unfunded mandate. Roger added that if it passes, it will be expensive and unavoidable. Other than that, Heidi said that the budget was pretty level funded.

Tracey asked if any contracts are in negotiation. Roger said that one is close to settlement and there is one another. Roger also added that there is a new union that covers people who were previously not covered.

Heidi asked about the 100% increase on office equipment. Roger explained that the increase was for a communication system that had not been replaced for a while.

Thom asked why telecommunications had gone down. Roger said that a new telecommunication system is coming in on another budget line. Randy added that this is related to the centralization of utilities. Sue expressed concern about not knowing which building was using what with the centralized utilities. Randy clarified that all usage will be tracked by the accounting office and the centralization means better IT management.

Tracey asked what is meant by ground support. Roger explained that it is related to extra land in town that is now being maintained by Roger's department.

Water & Sewer—

Roger said that the water system needed \$80 million worth of improvements including dirty water issues, dated pipes linings and well and water treatment. Furthermore, there are tanks and a reservoir that need serious rehab that have not been touched for a while. Bill K commented on the relining of the pipes, saying that it is relatively new technology that the state may be able to provide funding for.

Larry T asked about the timeframe the \$80 million would be introduced into the budget. Roger said that the plan was to introduce it over 20 years. Larry T asked if this would mean increments in CIP and whether there was other funding available. Roger said that there could be other grants and funds. Thom asked how much flow could be recaptured with the new pipes. Roger explained that the INA would determine that.

Mike briefly spoke about more aggressive collection of water and sewer fees since there was a high delinquency rate.

Tracey asked if there is a plan in place so that future generations don't have millions of dollars of repairs. Mike responded that everything needed repairs and they intended to leave it in a better construction. Bill K added that the regular maintenance updates need to be organized and put on a schedule.

Thom asked about chemical prices. Roger responded that chemical prices have increased.

Larry T asked if hacking could be an issue for the pumps and valves since they would be on the centralized utilities. Randy responded that the IT director will stay on top of the firewalls and security.

Larry T also asked if the budget increase is representative of the \$80 million that will be going into the system. Mike responded that it is.

Tracey asked if Fisher St is profitable from a sewer perspective. Mike said that although not a profit per se, there is still benefit to getting money through the door.

Larry T asked how the IMA costs would be covered. Mike responded that it cost could fall on the tax if enough customers don't buy the flow. Tracey added that it is still the lesser of two evils.

Street Lighting—

Roger and Bill K briefly went over the plan to change to LED lights on streets and their comparative benefits and their life.

Landfill—

Larry T asked for an explanation of what landfill meant. Roger provided that they are required to maintain that by the state. Tracey asked why this item had gone up. Roger explained that a \$6000 fine had been incurred for not monitoring what had been an unknown land fill in town. Roger also added that when the solar project goes up, most of the \$56,000 might roll back in cash because the installers monitor and maintain the solar sites.

Snow & Ice—

Tracey concluded that snow and ice is basically flat.

8:30PM Heather Harding Recreation Review—

Tracey asked where the expense had gone since there is a drop from \$70,000 to \$63,000. Heather explained that most of the expenses would be taken care of by the revolving account while a larger part of the \$63,000 would be applied to the director's pay.

Kristin reiterated that although the principle line is going down, the director's salary is going up substantially. Heather commented that they had to contribute towards centralized maintenance and that could not go towards the director's salary. Kristin asked what the budgeting goal is. Heather explained that the vision is to have the director funded by the town and everything else self-funded. Bill K commented that the self-funding is ultimately helpful towards town but he couldn't comment on the director's salary coming 100% from the town. Heidi asked who the recreation director reports to. Heather responded that she reported to the town manager and the rec board.

There was a short discussion on field maintenance as it is expensive. Heather explained that the school fields are taken care of by the schools but the fields around Taylor and Burrell are owned by the Rec Department and everyone pays for those fields. Heather mentioned that they charge where possible and try to keep the cost away from the kids as much as possible.

Bill K asked if out of town groups are charged differently compared with residents. This was followed by a short discussion on whether it is possible to charge outside groups more.

Larry S asked if it is possible to roll the maintenance fees to the users. Bill K said that some communities did that. Heather commented that at times they work with a trade-off where some teams would take care of the fields but have more autonomy while using said field as well.

Bill K asked how some of the lines had gone up. Heather responded that the rise came from log cabins rental fees which were not being received before. Larry T asked if that account could be spent on anything. Randy said that the spending had to be recreation related. Kristin asked if there is a possibility that the usage of the revolving account could be widened if voted on.

Thom asked if there is anything in the near future that might bring the CIP up. Heather responded that the Mill St parking would need to be fixed at some point and that the offices at Booth field would need some work. Heather expressed that these projects are not on any sort of timeline at the moment.

John asked who is paying \$85,000 for log cabin. Heather explained that there is a family that is charged a \$1500 monthly rental fee at that the \$85,000 is the current balance in the rental account.

Tracey thanked Heather and all the liaisons.

9:10 PM Adjourn

Tracey said that there needs to be further discussion on how to be thorough so that assumptions such as the 40B don't pass by without discussion. Before the end of the meeting, Tracey went over the upcoming meetings' dates and locations. She also asked if it is possible to switch the meeting on the 11th to Thursday the 12th.

Larry S motioned to adjourn and Larry T Seconded.

Vote: 8/0/0

Minutes approved by Vote of the Advisory Committee.

Date of Meeting: February 11, 2015

Vote: 7-0-0

Tracey Vasile

Signature of Chairperson