

TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014

**Committee Members Present:** Tracey Vasile, Larry Thomas, Sue Dring, Monica Fisler, Patrick Mossesso, Cal Calnan, Kristin Papianou, John Chlebek, Thom Freeman

**Absent:** Larry Stern, Heidi Krockta, Javed Hussain

**Others Present:** Randy Scollins, Ginny Coppola

Notes taken by: Maham Zia

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

**7:00 PM Introduction and General Overview—**

Tracey congratulated everyone for their Town Hall Meeting presentations and went over the meeting agenda.

**7:05 PM Randy's Budget Presentation—**

Randy went over the budget calendars (handed out). He said that the leadership meeting has already reviewed and generally agreed on the budget handout. One of the bigger budget items is the Town Hall project. The goal is to not raise taxes but work with debt service and the operating budget to address the cost. He added that there was an effort to come under yearly revenue in order to fit the costs and that the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen are largely on board.

He said that budget guidance has been given to the departments and there are some programs that need more spending, like centralized maintenance for municipal buildings. There will be a meeting with building owners to further discuss this. Tracey asked if someone from the AdCom can attend the meeting to which Randy responded in the positive. Larry T asked if this would be a new department in the budget. Randy responded that it will be added to Municipal Buildings. So far, the only municipal building is Town Hall and that will be molded into buildings, plural.

Randy further explained that Bill K will be using process used in the past; most of budget will be passed unless something really doesn't make sense. The preliminary budget meeting with the Board of Selectmen will be in the beginning of February (on handout).

Tracey asked if there is a reason why budget is done by 8<sup>th</sup> which is so far ahead of time. Randy said this is related to the AdCom recommendation being published around that time since it is critical. He added that the recommendations are needed sooner rather than later. Randy asked if the schedule is ok. Larry T said that it's fine. Tracey asked if the 4<sup>th</sup> could be switched to the 11<sup>th</sup> because the AdCom Chair is not available.

Sue, Randy and Larry T had a brief discussion about levying to the limit and why that was preferred. Tracey asked if there are any contracts being bargained right now. Randy listed steelworkers (current non-union employees), DPW and Fire. Tracey said that no contracts should be brought for voting less than two weeks prior to Town Meeting because it is too much at last moment. She pressed that AdCom will not be forced to vote in a rushed manner.

Tracey made sure that each of the groups which have contracts under negotiation had an AdCom liaison. Steelworkers were missing a liaison so Tracey asked if Thom would like to take that on. Thom agreed to do it, asking if there was any conflict of interest there. Randy said that Bill K will weigh in on that for Thom.

John asked what would happen if the New England Revolution leaves Foxboro. Randy responded that they have been aware that the Revolution might leave here. He also added that it might be likely that the Revolution would move to Somerville due to the stadium and transportation.

Randy further explained that because they don't budget to spend, all local receipts are under budgeted. The soccer revenue is incremental to what they budget and the excess money floats back to capital and operating budget. The Revolution pays the lower ticket fee unlike international soccer and concerts. He said that college football is the most beneficial.

Larry T asked if what they make in tickets is dwarfed by what is spent on the events that come to the stadium. Randy replied that if there is an impact directly from an event, it is charged. Randy added that the biggest cost we incur is due to the added fire and police personnel in light of Patriot's Place. This amount is collected in tax.

Patrick asked why there is an increase in ambulance cost. This was followed by a short discussion on different options for ambulances and whether they are feasible with the conclusion that the current situation works best.

Larry T asked about Town Hall and debt service. Randy said that the take away from the executive summary is that the numbers are manageable. There should be enough wiggle room to absorb debt service from the Town Hall. Larry T then asked if we can exclude that debt in case of an unforeseen catastrophe. Randy said that there is a variety of ways this can be done. Past examples include service cuts, or flexing the free cash in Capital Program and putting that into the operating budget. Randy stated that the program spending has been chosen strategically and frugally to remain on the safe side.

Larry T asked why there was nothing in the budget regarding school stadiums. Randy explained that this has been spoken about in leadership meetings. They will either look outwards or wait till after Town Hall for the stadiums. Ginny further added that when they asked about the bleachers etc, they were told that stadiums were low on the priority list. Randy concluded that this matter will need attention later but hopefully be funded privately.

Tracey thanked Randy for his presentation and announced that the next meeting will be January 7<sup>th</sup>.

**8:45 PM Adjourn—**

**Kristin motioned to adjourn and John seconded.**

**Vote: 7/0/0**

Minutes approved by Vote of the Advisory Committee.

Date of Meeting: January 5, 2015

Vote:

Tracey Vasile

Signature of Chairperson

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Signature of Secretary