



**Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 12, 2024
Joint Public Hearing with Select Board on FY25 General Fund Budget
Zoom Video/Audio Conference – 6:00 pm**

Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2021, Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022 and Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023; Scituate Advisory Committee Members held the March 12, 2024 meeting via Zoom Video and/or Audio (Dial-in for those with only phone access). All participants participated remotely.

Committee Members Present: Elise Russo, Chair; Dan McGuiggin, Vice-Chair; Missy Seidel; Jamie Gilmore; Marc DiCosimo; Lynda Ferguson; Conor Doherty and Jerry Kelly

Committee Members Not in Attendance:
Patrice Metro

Also in Attendance: Nancy Holt, Finance Director/Town Accountant; Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator; Seth Pfeiffer, SCTV Director; Maura Curran, Select Board Chair; Andrew Goodrich, Select Board Vice-Chair; Karen Connolly; Karen Canfield; Susan Harrison

Ms. Curran called the joint meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to accept the agenda which was seconded by Mr. Gilmore and voted unanimously in favor (8-0) by roll call vote; Ms. Seidel-yes; Ms. Russo-yes; Mr. Gilmore-yes; Mr. Kelly-yes; Mr. DiCosimo-yes; Mr. Doherty-yes; Ms. Ferguson-yes and Mr. McGuiggin-yes.

Mr. Gilmore made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 7, 2024 meeting which was seconded by Ms. Seidel. The minutes were voted majority in favor (7-0-1) by roll call vote; Ms. Seidel-yes; Ms. Russo-yes; Mr. Gilmore-yes; Ms. Metro-yes; Mr. Kelly-yes; Mr. DiCosimo-yes; Mr. Doherty-abstain; Ms. Ferguson-yes and Mr. McGuiggin-yes.

Mr. Boudreau provided a brief overview of the FY25 general fund budget. He noted the revenue assumptions including 2.5% property tax increase, meals tax and room occupancy increased by \$50,000 and the Governor's state aid budget. He stated the expenses are outpacing revenues with lingering supply chain issues, collective bargaining and employee benefits costs are increasing as well. Mr. Boudreau stated it was a level service budget. One vacant position was

not filled in favor of a new position. He also noted that four collective bargaining contracts will be expiring as of June 30, 2024 and are in negotiations. He noted that the roads and seawalls line item is being funded from the wind turbine and solar array revolving funds. He reviewed fixed costs changes between FY24 and FY25. Mr. Boudreau reviewed the requests for new personnel and increased hours with only additional hours being recommended. The inspectors' rate is being increased with an offset in an increase in permit revenue. He also noted that the Financial Forecast Committee had met several times throughout the budget cycle.

Ms. Curran thanked all for their dedication and noted that the FY26 budget will be even more difficult. She noted that it was extremely difficult the FY25 budget and every effort was made not to seek an operational override from the citizens at this time.

Ms. Russo stated the cap on property taxes at 2.5% in a rising inflation environment was extremely difficult. Mr. Goodrich thanked the School Committee and their assistance with helping us get to where we needed to be and the position at the senior center was a great addition. Ms. Connolly asked for clarification that the personnel requests were not funded as the budget was far too tight.

Ms. Curran made a motion to adjourn the hearing and the Advisory Committee meeting at 6:14 pm which was seconded by Ms. Canfield and voted unanimously in favor; Ms. Curran-yes; Mr. Goodrich-yes; Ms. Connolly-yes; Ms. Canfield-yes; Ms. Harrison-yes; Ms. Seidel-yes; Ms. Russo-yes; Mr. Gilmore-yes; Ms. Metro-yes; Mr. Kelly-yes; Mr. DiCosimo-yes; Mr. Doherty-yes; Ms. Ferguson-yes and Mr. McGuiggin-yes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Holt
Recorder