



Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 16, 2022
Zoom Video/Audio Conference and Select Board Hearing Room at Town
Hall– 6:30 pm

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, Scituate Advisory Committee Members held the March 16, 2022 meeting via a hybrid Zoom Video and/or Audio (Dial-in for those with only phone access) and in-person meeting. Participants participated remotely and in person in the Select Board hearing room at Town Hall.

Committee Members Present: Jamie Gilmore; Chair, Elise Russo, Jerry Kelly, Missy Seidel, Patrice Metro, Dan McGuiggin and Lynda Ferguson

Committee Members Not in Attendance:
Lincoln Heineman and Michael Westort

Also in Attendance: Nancy Holt, Finance Director/Town Accountant; Seth Pfeiffer, SCTV Facilitator; James Boudreau, Town Administrator; Tony Vegnani, Select Board Member; Karen Connolly, Select Board Chair; Karen Canfield, Select Board Member; Andrew Goodrich, Select Board Member; Maura Curran, Select Board Member; William Burkhead, Superintendent of Schools; Robert Dutch, Director of School Finance and Business; Mark McKeever, petitioner

Mr. Gilmore called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Gilmore read the following statement.

The Scituate Advisory Committee is committed to providing an environment of respect during meetings. We ask all members to interact in a polite manner even when there is disagreement. We value the participation of our community and want all participants, including marginalized and minoritized communities, to feel welcomed and respected. We ask our committee members, and all who participate, to commit to these standards to support and respect our community.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to accept the agenda which was seconded by Ms. Seidel and voted unanimously in favor (7-0) by roll call vote; Mr. Gilmore-yes, Ms. Russo-yes, Mr. Kelly-yes, Ms. Seidel-yes, Ms. Metro-yes, Mr. McGuiggin-yes and Ms. Ferguson-yes

Mr. Gilmore introduced the Advisory Committee members in attendance via Zoom. Ms. Connolly introduced the members of the Select Board and other attendees of the joint meeting in the hearing room at Town Hall.

Joint Public Hearing on FY23 Proposed Budget

Mr. Boudreau noted the FY23 budget was based on a 2.5% increase in property taxes, level funded local receipts, pre-COVID level meals tax receipts and \$1,000,000 in new growth. He stated there were requests for multiple new positions and there is funding proposed for two new full-time positions for Information Technology project manager and an HVAC Technician and an increase of 7 hours for Council on Aging food service staff. He stated there will be challenges in the future for staffing due to police reform requirements.

Mr. Boudreau said the only change in general government was the new position for IT. He reviewed the challenges in public safety as the inability to use permanent intermittent officers in the future that attend a reserve academy as under police reform these persons would need to attend a full police academy. He noted that it is still unclear how police reform will affect assistant harbor masters. He also stated that it is still difficult to recruit paramedics and there is a wait to get enrollment spaces in the fire academy. Mr. Boudreau noted that the departments are busier than ever and that the additional proposed position for Planning and Conservation assistance was being more fully defined with Kyle Boyd, Director of Planning and Development.

Mr. Boudreau stated the fixed costs were still of concern with health insurance just over a 3% increase and the increased Plymouth County Retirement assessment. He stated the general and property liability insurance costs were continuing to climb especially for the marina and docks coverage and cyber insurance. He informed members that the MMA was pushing the Legislature to allocate additional state aid beyond the 2.7% proposed in the Governor's budget.

Mr. Gilmore queried the members for questions to which none were presented.

Review of Special and Annual Town Meeting Articles

Ms. Connolly reported there were five special town meeting articles and 28 annual town meeting articles with some being included in consent agendas. She noted that the Moderator will be conducting a Moderator's meeting at a date as yet to be set to discuss process. Ms. Metro asked for confirmation that it was a public meeting which Ms. Connolly confirmed. She asked for confirmation as to the posting of the warrant. Ms. Holt stated it had to be posted 14 days in advance and would likely be posted next week as it had been reviewed by Town Counsel and she wanted to give it a final review.

Mr. Gilmore asked if there were any questions from the attendees. Mr. McKeever stated that an Advisory Committee member had made a statement at a previous meeting to which Mr. McKeever was not allowed to respond to at the time. He noted the member had provided misinformation about him personally to members at that meeting. He also noted the same member had made comments about mitigation efforts. Mr. McKeever stated there had not been any concrete letters or e-mails to provide mitigation.

Mr. Gilmore called for a motion to suspend the Advisory Committee meeting and re-convene in a new ZOOM meeting which was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. McGuiggin and voted unanimously in favor (7-0) by roll call vote; Mr. Gilmore-yes, Ms. Russo-yes, Mr. Kelly-yes, Ms. Seidel-yes, Ms. Metro-yes, McGuiggin-yes and Ms.

Ferguson-yes.

Mr. Gilmore called the suspended meeting to order at 6:58 pm in the new ZOOM meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Gilmore called for a motion to accept the minutes of the March 10, 2022 meeting which was made by Ms. Metro and seconded by Ms. Russo. The minutes were voted in favor (7-0) by roll call vote; Mr. Gilmore-yes, Ms. Russo-yes, Mr. Kelly-yes, Ms. Seidel-yes, Ms. Metro-yes, Mr. McGuiggin-yes and Ms. Ferguson-yes

Review of Advisory Committee Booklet

Ms. Holt reviewed the articles for which write-ups had not yet been received with members. Ms. Metro asked if the comments were being reviewed and Mr. Gilmore confirmed he would review as would Ms. Holt. He stated if there was a question, it would be forwarded back to the submitter for clarification.

Mr. Pfeiffer noted there were persons in the ZOOM waiting room and asked if they should be admitted to the meeting. Mr. Gilmore asked they be admitted as he was unaware there was a waiting room. Ms. Holt reviewed the discussion and vote made on the minutes.

Other Business

Ms. Holt informed members that their next meeting would be the night of town meeting at 6:30 pm. She mentioned that the meeting was expected to draw a large number of citizens so members should plan to come early. She asked if a quorum would attend the Moderator's meeting to know if she should post it. She stated she would poll the members individually once the date was set and post if necessary.

Mr. Kelly asked the method for making an amendment to an article at town meeting and Ms. Holt reviewed the procedure. Mr. Kelly asked the quantum of vote to move an article forward and Ms. Holt responded 2/3rds. Ms. Metro asked if there would be adjustments made for the sound system due to the difficulty hearing in a prior meeting. Ms. Holt said the Town Clerk was speaking with the sound engineer to improve the sound quality. Mr. Gilmore and Mr. Kelly discussed attendance of members, changing of members and the continued use of ZOOM meetings.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Ms. Russo at 7:17 p.m.; the Committee voted unanimously in favor (7-0) by roll call vote; Mr. Gilmore-yes, Ms. Russo-yes, Mr. Kelly-yes, Ms. Seidel-yes, Ms. Metro-yes, Mr. McGuiggin-yes and Ms. Ferguson-yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Holt
Recorder