



**Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 27, 2020
Community Room, Scituate Public Library
7:00 pm**

Committee Members Present: Jerry Kelly, Chair; Lincoln Heineman; Andrew Goodrich; Patrice Metro; Elise Russo; Jamie Gilmore; Dan McGuiggin; Mike Westort, Vice Chair

Committee Members not present: Lynda Ferguson

Also in Attendance: Nancy Holt, Finance Director; Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator, Heather Clark, Citizen Petitioner

Jerry Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Materials referenced:

Town Warrant for Annual Town Meeting (“ATM”), Town Warrant for Special Town Meeting (“STM”) and Draft selected Background Information for the ATM and STMas of February 25, 2020

Jerry Kelly made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Lincoln Heinman; Unanimous Vote (8-0)

Will vote on minutes from February 13 at next meeting.

Opening Remarks:

- Upcoming meeting March 5, 2020 - Planning Board to present articles
Advisory Committee Booklet has to be public on March 27. Hope tonight vote everything but CPC one project and planning board who is presenting next meeting. March 5. Elise cannot attend meeting next week. Enough others can come to have a quorum.
- Tonight – review all the Articles for Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting.
- Will vote unless put hold on any of them to vote next week.
- Andrew – Do we need to have joint meeting with other committees before the ATM and STM? Discussion of timeline to review warrant articles. Articles were not voted by selectman at their February 4 meeting (meeting went too long). So were voted at meeting this week on February 25.

Town Warrant:

STM meeting articles;

Article 1 - Unpaid bills – Jerry will write-up this Article. Unanimous vote (8-0) in support of this Article.

Article 2 – Jim Boudreau stated that the Information Technology Department received a \$200,000 grant to connect most of the Town buildings to the school fiber ring. \$102,406 is necessary to connect the Water Department and the Wastewater Treatment Plant to the fiber ring. Jerry will write-up this Article. Unanimous vote (8-0) in support of this Article.

Article 3

Community preservation (“CPC”) – This Article increases the amount previously set aside for Community Housing, Historic Preservation and Open Space in FY2019 and FY 2020. Additional fund received from state, after receive these funds are increased to meet the required , this money is to account for that change.

Jamie will write up this Article. Unanimous vote (8-0) in support of this Article.

Article 4; Cedar Point sewer project– wait to vote because Will Blanton and Kevin Cafferty could not be here to speak about cost and the project. Project changed from pump system to gravity system. Position of selectman is any additional cost of betterment will be billed to the residents impacted. Explanation of difference in project. Anything beyond 44,700,000 is intended to be charged to homeowners. Discuss next week. 20 year assessment on betterment. If at STM, do not vote to have betterment go to residents of Cedar Point, then the cost difference goes to rest of residents. Would like to get started on project this spring, so needs to go to STM. Discussed what happens when/if go over sewer allowed amount.

If this committee votes no, we run risk of running over I&I limit.

A No voting at STM means that the project as proposed cannot be done. Will be here next week to further explain what the ramifications of no vote. And to have numbers.

Patrice – is there an example of something like this in town, where project only effects small group. Seawalls, Musquashcut Pond sewer.

Table Article 4 by a vote of (8-0)

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Article 1: Compensation of Elected Officials – Unanimous vote (8-0) in support of this Article.

Jerry will write up. In consent agenda

Article 2: Report of Boards and Committees Unanimous vote (8-0) in support of this Article. Jerry will write up. In consent agenda.

Article 3: Capital Improvement Plan

Lincoln thinks that the \$710,000 for locker room HS is too high, Also \$1,800,000 on Widows Walk, asked about debt service on that being on spreadsheet. Concern with project and putting residents in position to pay dollars toward Widows Walk if have a season when can’t pay debt. Lincoln missed the Advisory Committee meeting when Widows Walk presented and discussed financials at length. Concern about consequences of a drought season.

Andrew suggest removing the Wampatuck portico item. Inappropriate expense when classrooms using space heaters.

Widows walk, locker room, portico

Hold on project S, U, Y – vote individually

Unanimous vote (8-0) in support of this Article.**except S, U, Y (8-0)**

Discussed Third Cliff revetment – meeting yesterday. MEPA working on it now and then goes to Army Corps of Engineers for review. Needs to be permitted in many ways.

Majority vote to support Article 3S **(6-2)**

Majority vote to support Article #U (7-1)

Majority vote to support Article 3Y (7-1)

Elise writing up Article 3

Article 4- Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget

Mike would like to vote separately on Section 300 and would rather project what they need, rather than set up rainy day fund. Concerned about not using funds to hire teacher need now, rather than waiting to spend money on unanticipated special education expenses. Would rather be able to hire what can this year, rather than over budget for something next year that might end up not needing. Jerry expressed concerns what special education would have to do if in future year if estimate incorrectly. If there was a shortage they would have to go to town meeting and ask for an override. Mike is concerned that the SPED number is inflated. Hoping to have surplus. Lincoln stated we are only voting on a School Department total budget by state law and the School Department can spend it how they want to.

This Line item is “an unknown unknown” for us.

Andrew expressed concern about Section 610 Library. He feels that compared to other towns, it is lacking and should be increased. He would like to increase Section 610 by \$40,000 for another librarian. Lincoln suggest that we find funds from restoration projects. Discussion about \$40,000 undersates the loaded cost of another librarian. Patrice asked what is ramification of taking money from roads and seawalls. Jim explained that Town Meeting voted an override to ensure funds for roads and seawall. Jamie asked should we consider \$40,000 for a librarian next year after Norwell library is back in its regular space and numbers for usage of Scituate library are more normal?

Thinks this year numbers are inflated. Maybe will not need extra help next year. Jim – not sure can say only library gets additional help, just because they were the only one that asked. Message to all departments was level service budget. Lincoln suggested that Andrew offer amendment for committee to consider. So we can move forward with discussion.

Funding proposed

Article 4 – vote with exception of line item 610, and 400 (add back for seawall), 911

Vote remainder of article 4. Unanimous vote (8-0) in support of this Article.

Proposed amendment increase 911 by -----

Vote amendment (3-5)

Andrew proposed amendment to take from line 400 roads seawall, \$40,000 to library 610 line item
Majority vote not in favor of amendment (2-6). Amendment fails.

Unanimous vote (8-0) in support of this Article.

Article 28: Petition Resolution for Medicare for All in Massachusetts

Heather Clark. Petitioner offered this Petition because she is concerned about the rising cost of health insurance that are rising faster than any other rates of services. Would like to call attention to fact that municipalities being crushed by obligations of health insurance. Resolution asks that town, make clear to political leaders, that there is another way, a better way, more cost effectively, if did not have burden of private health insurance. The way doing it now, most expensive way, seems to be accepted. Compared health care insurance to planning seawall to be built to protect town, and then choosing most expensive.

Non-binding resolution to communicate to political leaders, that we would benefit, through single payor health system that would cover everyone, cost less. And eliminate medical bankruptcy.

Mike stated that he is not sure that this is the right forum. National or state issue. Jamie feels that this is the right forum. Look at cost town pays for health care.

Jerry stated that we have a valid Petition Article submitted by citizen. We have to vote on it.

Andrew – does BOS vote on this? They do not have to.

Elise – thinks this will be decided at polls for president. This is saying single payor is the solution

Jerry – other communities in this state have expressed support of this article.

Lincoln – messaging from town might help get us closer.

Andrew – although does not support, thinks this is the forum to bring up conversation.

Vote on article – Majority in favor of this Article(5-3) Patrice will write this Article up

Article 5 Waterways Enterprise Fund

Unanimous vote (8-0) in support of this Article. Dan will write it up.

Article 6 Golf Course Enterprise Fund

Unanimous vote (8-0) in support of this Article. Dan will write it up

Article 7 Wastewater Enterprise Fund

Unanimous vote (8-0) in support of this Article. Mike will write it up.

Article 8 Transfer Station Enterprise Fund

Unanimous vote (8-0) in support of this Article. Mike will write up

Article 9 Water Enterprise Fund

Unanimous vote (8-0) in support of this Article. Andrew will write up

Article 10 Stabilization Fund Excess Levy

Unanimous vote (8-0) in support of this Article. Lincoln will write up

Article 11 Revolving Fund Limits

Unanimous vote (8-0) in support of this Article. Patrice will write up.

Article 12 Community Preservation

Hold on # 9. CPC has not voted as committee (Country Way Trail II)

Vote each item in article 12

8 Mordecai Lincoln property. Mike asks who is paying for this? Taking away taxes from having mega-mansions. Jamie – it will go into historic budget.

Voting article 12, number 8 – Majority in favor of the Article (7-1)

Remainder of Article 12 Unanimous vote (8-0) in support of this Article. Jamie will write it up

Andrew – suggest less than 3% for budget for CPC. That is a lot of money. Jamie – they would lose the match. Jerry – this is not for this warrant. Would need citizen petition to create a vote on idea.

Article 13 Community Preservation Act Reconciliations

Unanimous vote (8-0) in support of this Article. **(8-0)** Jamie will write up.

Article 14 Amend Rate of Room Occupancy Excise Tax

Unanimous vote (7-0) in support of this Article. 1 abstention

Article 15 – Local Option Acceptance – SPED Reserve Fund Majority in favor of the Article **(7-1)**.

Patrice will write it up.

Article 16 –Sale of Council on Aging and Minot Fire Station Properties

new article – Discussion – surplus buildings. Whatever proceeds from sale, use toward debt for council on aging. Can't use for already issued bonds.

Unanimous vote (8-0) in support of this Article. **(8-0)** Lincoln will write up.

Article 17 Cell Tower Leases

This only allows selectman to enter into lease. If we wanted to move antenna would have to pay to move / reconstruct. One lease comes up 2021, other 2023.

Discussion about length of lease, abandonments terms, and market for tower.

It is town tower, but they put their stuff on it. They have received offers for longer than 25, they have not received requested for shorter leases – interpret as the companies thinking they will need it for at least 25 years.

Lincoln made amendment to hold until have more data on lease structure and other information.

Amendment fails (1-7).

Majority in favor Article 17. (6-2) Dan will write up

Article 18 Massachusetts General Law Chapter 91 Liability

Unanimous vote (8-0) in support of this Article. **(8-0)** Andrew will write up

Article 19 –Intermunicipal Agreement – Sewer District

Jim suggest to hold. Had good discussion with Hull and Cohasset. With Scituate sewer going down South Main Street. Discussed project proposed to work with Cohasset. 115,000 gallons Cohasset to go to Hull, 115 ,000 gallons Scituate sewer goes to Cohasset, position is Hull sends Scituate bill for 115,000 gallons. Not sure need regional sewerage district. Would like to work that out first. **Hold**

Article 20 Zoning Bylaw – Signs (Section 710)

motion to table – second by Lincoln. Unanimous vote (8-0) to hold of this Article. **(8-0)**

Article 21 Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Repair and Restoration of Non-Conforming Structures

Unanimous vote (8-0) to hold this Article. **(8-0)**

Article 22 General Bylaw Amendment – Time of Meeting – Section 20140

Law for selectman to pick a different date for election date, when falls on holiday weekend. Instead of every 3-4 years having to ask about moving it.

Unanimous vote (8-0) in support of this Article. **(8-0)** Mike will write up.

Article 23 General Bylaw Amendment – Animal Control Bylaw – Sections 30430-30550

This article our making the same as the state law. All fines increase. Doesn't change time of dogs on beach nor does it address enforcement.

Amendment to Hold tied (4-4) – so Amendment fails.

Unanimous vote (8-0) in support of this Article. **(8-0)** Lynda is writing up.

Article 24 General Bylaw – Revolving Funds

Lincoln – concern setting up revolving fund would mean wanting to keep building such as the Maritime Center and thinks should ultimately sell.

Revolving fund means funds from building used for that building. Nancy – gave history of revolving fund in community building. Used to have before was used as library.

Maritime – fund needs to be set up.

Fields - - fund need to be set up. Anyone using fields that is not school or rec department will be charged to use fields.

Aquaculture – needs to be set up. Shellfish regulations are not particular to that area currently being

discussed. So could go somewhere else in Scituate.

Majority vote in favor of this Article (7-1). Lynda will write up.

Article 25 Right to Farm

Majority vote in favor of his Article (5-3). With corrections of typos. Lynda will write up

Article 26 Petition – amend General Bylaws – Reduce Room Occupancy Tax

Unanimous vote (8-0) in support of this Article. **(7-0) one abstention.** Andrew will write up and combine with other

Article 27: Petition – Souths Shore Community Action Council

Lincoln recuse from vote.

Andrew after looking at their statements 990 the top 3 employees there make more than anyone in this town

2 abstentions, 3 opposed, 3 in favor.

Vote to re do vote

3 yeas

3 nay

2 abstention

Motion does not pass. Jerry will write it up.

Andrew asked that since not doing meeting with selectman – can we add to booklet/ can we propose a cheat sheet, for a chance to better educate taxpayers. Full list payers. Other towns do a taxpayer receipt. What will average single family home will look like, so they know.

Jamie – we have done something similar on construction projects. Would like numbers used to be checked and confirmed by town accountant.

Lincoln nominate Andrew to make a draft of what proposing.

Follow-up:

On-going Items:

- Jerry would like to have Plymouth Country Retirement come in and justify their fees and their investment plans.
- Jamie asked Sytske Humphrey, Vice President of the Beautification Commission if she could make a list of the areas in Scituate that needed improvement.
- Security Upgrades to Town Facilities, Jim said he would get the break down.

Jerry Kelly made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Lincoln Heiman; Unanimous Vote (8-0)