

TOWN OF SCITUATE
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Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 7, 2024
Scituate Town Library, 85 Branch St., Community Room – 7:00 pm

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

Committee Members Not in Attendance:
Conor Doherty

Also in Attendance: James Boudreau, Town Administrator; Nancy Holt, Finance Director/Town Accountant; Chris Carchia, Capital Planning Committee Chair; Maura Curran, Select Board Chair

Ms. Russo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to accept the agenda which was seconded by Mr. McGuiggin and voted unanimously in favor (8-0).

Mr. McGuiggin made a motion to accept the minutes as amended of the February 29, 2024 meeting which was seconded by Mr. Gilmore. The minutes were voted unanimously in favor (8-0).

Cushing Hatherly Elementary School Report from Capital Planning Committee Chair, Chris Carchia

Mr. Carchia informed members that the Capital Planning Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to support the project. He noted the major concerns stemmed from a lack of specific information to some questions that had been posed. He stated that the more recent informational session presentation addressed some of those concerns. Mr. Gilmore stated he was at the meeting and felt the Committee vetted the project well.

FY25 Budget Updates

Mr. Boudreau provided an update on available revenues voted recently by the Financial Forecast Committee and the Select Board's recommendation for allocation of those funds. The changes to the forecast included lower than expected health insurance renewal, an actual regional school

assessment, the addition of the opioid stabilization funds to support the FACTS budget, an increase in inspection fees to support inspector increases, the Governor's state aid budget and a change in the revenue formula with the School Department. He stated the Select Board voted to support the Roads & Seawalls from the wind turbine and solar array revolving funds. He noted the unfilled zoning enforcement position was not funded in favor of funding an Assistant Council on Aging Director. Mr. Boudreau also noted a few additional hours for his office from the Maritime Revolving Fund for management of that property. Ms. Seidel asked if there were any outstanding enforcement issues that would lapse without the zoning enforcement officer. Mr. Boudreau stated there were other ways to address enforcement.

Mr. Boudreau reviewed the additional \$10,000 in seasonal salaries in the Waterways Enterprise for patrolling the new mooring in Cohasset Harbor. He also went over some line item adjustments in the Water Enterprise budget that amounted to a net \$0. Ms. Seidel asked if we had taken the moorings in Cohasset Harbor and would therefore be responsible for safety and Mr. Boudreau stated yes but they were working on an agreement with Cohasset to address the issues. Mr. McGuiggin asked if the regional sewer was tied to this issue and Mr. Boudreau stated yes and he gave a summation of the different versions of regional sewer over the past seven years. Ms. Metro asked if a larger project would be more economically feasible and Mr. Boudreau responded a larger project that it might get more support. Ms. Russo asked if the small version of the expansion for North Scituate would have the waste stream going to Cohasset or to us and Mr. Boudreau responded it would come to Scituate and that is why the inflow and infiltration projects have been moving forward. Ms. Seidel asked if the MBTA compliance statutes would bring about more state funding for sewer expansion. Mr. Boudreau stated there are funds but the grants are very competitive.

April 8, 2024 Special and Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

ARTICLE 1. Unpaid Prior Year Bills

ARTICLE 2. FY 24 Budget Reconciliations

ARTICLE 3. Community Preservation Act

ARTICLE 4. Change Town Clerk Position from Elected to Appointed

Mr. Gilmore made a motion to accept all the articles in the special town meeting which was seconded by Mr. McGuiggin and voted unanimously in favor (8-0).

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

ARTICLE 1. Compensation of Elected Officials

ARTICLE 2. Reports of Boards and Committees

ARTICLE 3. Capital Improvement Plan

ARTICLE 4. Fiscal Year 2025 General Fund Operating Budget

ARTICLE 5. Waterways Enterprise Fund FY 2025 Budget

ARTICLE 6. Golf Course Enterprise Fund FY 2025 Budget

ARTICLE 7. Wastewater Enterprise Fund FY 2025 Budget

ARTICLE 8. Transfer Station Enterprise Fund FY 2025 Budget

ARTICLE 9. Water Enterprise Fund FY 2025 Budget
ARTICLE 10. Stabilization Fund Excess Levy
ARTICLE 11. Revolving Fund Limits
ARTICLE 12. Community Preservation
ARTICLE 13. Community Preservation Act Reconciliations
ARTICLE 14. Affordable Housing Trust – Small Grant Non Deed Restricted Program
ARTICLE 15. Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 91 Liability
ARTICLE 16. Amend Zoning Map and Zoning Bylaws for Village Center and Neighborhood Districts – Greenbush/Driftway Gateway District and North Scituate Village District for Compliance with MGL Ch 40A Section 3A of the Zoning Act for Multi-Family Zoning as of right in MBTA Communities and minor housekeeping changes
ARTICLE 17. Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Wireless Communication Antennas
ARTICLE 18. Amend General Bylaws Section 10260 – Revolving Funds
ARTICLE 19. Amend General Bylaws Section 30150 – Streets, Sidewalks, Public Ways
ARTICLE 20. Local Option Acceptance – M.G.L. Chapter 59 §5 cl 54

Mr. Gilmore made a motion to accept all the articles in the annual town meeting which was seconded by Mr. McGuiggin and voted unanimously in favor (8-0).

Mr. Gilmore made a motion to reconsider the vote on Article 12 which was seconded by Mr. Kelly which was approved (8-0)

Mr. McGuiggin made motion to approve Article 12 – Community Preservation and Mr. Kelly seconded which was voted majority in favor (7-0-1). Mr. Gilmore abstained.

April 29, 2024 Special Town Meeting Warrant Article

Mr. McGuiggin expressed concern that the useful life of the Wampatuck School was not realistic for another 30 years as presented by the School Department. Mr. Kelly stated that the sewer infrastructure, an operating override for the Police Department and other needs still exist and Wampatuck is another one of those concerns. Ms. Russo noted the School Department's assumption that citizens would not support another school and that is why they were focusing on putting funds into the school. Mr. DiCosimo expressed concern about future enrollment and the stress on the older schools. Ms. Metro asked if there had ever been a discussion of a single elementary school. Ms. Curran stated that in the past a larger school was not supported and the neighborhood school concept is supported. Ms. Ferguson noted that at the time the Jenkins School was proposed, the age of the other schools was noted and the fact that not all the elementary children would be able to attend. He asked if there had been any discussion of schools specific to grades and Ms. Holt responded that it was in the Habeeb report. Mr. Gilmore stated that a comment could be included in the write-up to notate the needs for Wampatuck as well as other concerns. Ms. Russo noted that the points raised in the discussion should be reflected in the write-up regardless of the vote.

Ms. Russo asked for confirmation on the repair option and the displacement of children and why it was a longer period than a new build and Mr. Kelly responded that with the new construction option, the children could remain in the existing building during the construction since the new Hatherly would be built on the existing field. In the case of the repair option, the project would

have to be done in stages, and thus would take longer. Mr. Kelly stated the MSBA would not pay towards a renovation and Ms. Russo stated their website indicated the MSBA would pay. Mr. Boudreau stated that the MSBA might pay but the stretch code requirements would be more expensive as what happened in the high school roof project. Mr. Gilmore noted that the real estate tax impact for repairs versus new is not that different. Ms. Ferguson asked about the average assessed value and whether it is inflated as compared to median. Ms. Ferguson asked when the South Shore Regional Technical School would be coming forward and Mr. Boudreau stated next year.

Mr. Gilmore made a motion to support the construction of a new Cushing Hatherly Elementary School meeting which was seconded by Mr. Kelly. The motion was voted unanimously in favor (8-0).

Assignment of Articles

Special & Annual Town Meetings 04/08/24					
		Consent	Quantum	Advisory Committee (3/7/24)	
STM Art #	SPECIAL TOWN MEETING Subject	Agenda	of Vote	Presenter	Vote
1	Unpaid Bills	Yes	9/10ths	Jerry Kelly	8-0
2	FY24 Budget Reconciliations	Yes	Majority	Jerry Kelly	8-0
3	Community Preservation Additional Set-Asides	Yes	Majority	Jerry Kelly	8-0
4	Change Town Clerk from Elected to Appointed		Majority	Jerry Kelly	8-0
		Consent	Quantum	Advisory Committee (3/7/24)	
ATM Art #	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING Subject	Agenda	of Vote	Presenter	Vote
1	Compensation of Elected Officials	Yes	Majority	Elise Russo	8-0
2	Reports of Boards & Committees	Yes	Majority	Elise Russo	8-0
3	Capital Plan		2/3rds	Jamie Gilmore	8-0
4	Operating Budget		2/3rds	Elise Russo	8-0
5	Waterways Enterprise Budget	Yes	Majority	Dan McGuiggin	8-0
6	Golf Course Enterprise Budget	Yes	Majority	Dan McGuiggin	8-0
7	Wastewater Enterprise Budget	Yes	Majority	Marc DiCosimo	8-0
8	Transfer Station Enterprise Budget	Yes	Majority	Marc DiCosimo	8-0
9	Water Enterprise Budget	Yes	Majority	Missy Seidel	8-0
10	Stabilization Fund Excess Levy	Yes	Majority	Patrice Metro	8-0
11	Revolving Fund Limits	Yes	Majority	Patrice Metro	8-0
12	Community Preservation		Majority	Missy Seidel	8-0
13	Community Preservation Rescissions	Yes	Majority	Missy Seidel	8-0
14	Affordable Housing Trust - \$25,000 Round 2 Small Grant Program	Majority	Majority	Lynda Ferguson	8-0
15	MGL Chapter 91 Liability	Yes	Majority	Lynda Ferguson	8-0
16	Zoning Bylaw Amendment – MBTA Compliance		2/3rds	Conor Doherty	8-0
17	Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Wireless Communication Antennas		2/3rds	Conor Doherty	8-0
18	General Bylaws Amendment-Aquaculture Revolving		Majority	Dan McGuiggin	8-0
19	General Bylaws Amendment-Handicapped Parking Fine Increase		Majority	Dan McGuiggin	8-0
20	Local Option Acceptance-MGL c. 59 §5 cl 54		Majority	Elise Russo	8-0
Special Town Meeting 04/29/24					
		Consent	Quantum	Advisory Committee (3/7/24)	
STM Art #	SPECIAL TOWN MEETING Subject	Agenda	of Vote	Presenter	Vote
1	Cushing Hatherly Elementary School		2/3rds	Jerry Kelly	8-0

Other Business

Ms. Seidel asked if the Turner Road seawall was moving along in permitting and Mr. Boudreau stated that it was just being surveyed and the permitting situation had not improved.

Ms. Holt stated the next meeting will be the public hearing with the Select Board at 6PM via ZOOM on Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

Mr. McGuiggin made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Ms. Metro at 7:59 p.m.; the Committee voted unanimously in favor (8-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Holt
Recorder