

Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019

Present: All members of Advisory Committee

Also Present: Fire Chief Jeff LeGendre, DPW Director Joe Lynch, Mark Sprague from Planning Board, Town Administrator Don Lowe, Mike Gorr and Chris Lineberry of Capital Planning

6:30 p.m.: Called to order.

Fire Department Articles:

Article 23: A command vehicle for the Fire Department. The original request for a ¾-ton Chevrolet Silverado four-wheel drive pickup with a plow, for \$55,000, is modified to \$50,000 for a comparable truck without a plow.

Advisory action: Approved unanimously (Myerson, Lauer)

Article 24: \$91,430 for replacement of Engine 4.

LeGendre says his department will withdraw this article "in light of the situation."

Advisory action: Unanimously disapproved.

Public Works Articles:

6:35 p.m.: Public Works Director Joe Lynch appears before Advisory

Article 17: \$53,000 to replace the director's nonfunctioning Crown Victoria sedan with a one-ton pickup truck as the director's vehicle. Lynch said he explored various options, including used vehicles, an SUV and lighter trucks with and without plows.

Wysocki advises that a Ford F-250 with the plow and other capabilities would cost \$46,900. Lowe agrees that this would be a reasonable option.

Advisory action: To purchase a Ford F-250 with plow for \$46,900 from Free Cash. (Lauer, Myerson). Approved 5-1, with Benjamin opposing the motion.

Article 18: \$40,000 for replacement of DPW's maintenance SUV with a ½-ton van.

After exploring the market, Lynch said a fully equipped van, with emergency lights and roof racks, would cost \$38,000.

Advisory action: To buy a fully equipped van for \$48,000 (Lauer, Hurd) Approved unanimously.

Article 19: \$36,000 for phase one of a two-way radio system for DPW.

Advisory action: Unanimously disapproved. (Myerson, Lauer)

Article 20: \$250,000 for drainage/flood control improvements at Spectacle Hill and South Bolton roads. The balance of this project will be paid from Chapter 90 funds. Advisory members agreed, and suggested rewriting the summary of this article in the Warrant.

Advisory action: Approved unanimously (Lauer, Benjamin)

Advisory Discussion of Budget Line for Transfer Station

The committee reviewed a revised budget line for the Transfer Station, based on a renewed hauler contract and the fact that the market for recycled materials has collapsed. "Disposal costs have gone up dramatically. Recycling is required [by state law], but because of the global recycling crisis, the town used to receive revenue for recycling. We're now paying for it," Lynch said. The revised budget line is \$206,535.

Advisory action: Approved unanimously (Lauer, Benjamin)

Other Warrant Articles:

Advisory Committee members have had a chance to review testimony of Town Counsel to the Board of Selectmen concerning the revisions to the zoning bylaws submitted as Articles 6-11. There being no significant controversies to these articles, the committee voted.

Advisory action: Approved unanimously. (Benjamin, Lauer)

Article 12: Concerning a utility easement for the Boy Scouts, this article raised a number of questions—and it might be withdrawn, Boyle said.

Advisory action: Unanimously deferred (Benjamin, Lauer)

Articles 13 & 14: These articles revise the Town Code to establish regulations for the Transfer Station, and to empower the Board of Selectmen to levy fines for violations.

Advisory action: Unanimously approved (Hurd, Benjamin)

Article 15: To increase the local option rooms tax from 2% to 6%.

Advisory action: Unanimous approval (Lauer, Hurd)

Article 27: To replenish Advisory Reserve fund by \$25,000.

Advisory action: Approved unanimously (Lauer, Benjamin)

Article 28: Authorizing Nashoba Regional School District to borrow \$600,000 to pay the costs of designing and carrying out repairs to the high school's leaching field and fuel tank.

Advisory action: Unanimous approval (Lauer, Benjamin)

Article 29: To authorize the Nashoba Regional School District to establish stabilization fund to ease the establishment of a full-day kindergarten. After considerable discussion, the committee voted on this article.

Advisory action: Approved 4-2 with Benjamin and Kirchner opposing (Lauer, Myerson)

Article 3: Town Budget. The total has yet to be calculated by Rogers, but she said the Free Cash level would be \$155,570.

Advisory action: Unanimously approved. (Benjamin, Lauer)

8:16 p.m. Meeting Adjourned.

--Submitted by Joe Myerson, secretary