

Cohasset Advisory Committee

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Virtual Meeting-Zoom Video Call

7:00 p.m.

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 20(b), following Governor Baker's declaration of a state of emergency in the Commonwealth arising from the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Advisory Committee will meet virtually utilizing remote technology. **All votes will be taken by a Roll-Call Vote.**

Documents Received: Police Budget Presentation; Draft Minutes for 1/19/22, 2/2/22 and 2/16/22.

This meeting was recorded. Meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Chair Robert Hillman.

Advisory Committee Members in Attendance:

Adam Amann, Jeanne Astino, Michael Barclay, Fran Collins, Robert Hillman, J. Patrick Kennedy, Mark Maggi, Mary McGoldrick, and Meg Wheeler.

Advisory Committee Members Absent:

None

Guests: Chris Senior, Town Manager; Don Piatt, Director of Finance; William Quigley, Police Chief

1. Liaison Reports

- Mary McGoldrick and Jeanne Astino noted that the School Facilities Committee will present to the Advisory Committee at an upcoming meeting.
- As School Department liaisons, Mary McGoldrick and Jeanne Astino also noted that the School Dep't FY23 proposed budget is not yet scheduled to be presented publicly on a School Committee Meeting agenda.
- Adam Amann and Don Piatt updated the Committee that updated Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund draft budgets for FY23 would be sent in advance of our next meetings; Water Comm. has a meeting scheduled on 3/7/22 (Adam A. to attend) and Sewer Comm. on 3/3/22 to update and hopefully finalize those FY23 proposed budgets.
- Mike Barclay and Robert Hillman noted that the Fire Department proposed budget for FY23 has been deferred until our meeting on 3/9/22 or 3/16/22 depending on availability of the Fire Chief(s).
- Don Piatt also stated that the IT Department would be able present at our 3/9/22 meeting with draft budget materials to be sent in advance.

2. FY23 Budget Presentation by Police Department

Police Chief William Quigley presented power-point slides highlighting its proposed FY23 Budget, noting:

- Advisory Comm. member Mike Barclay met twice with Chief Quigley to review budget needs and department priorities;
- The FY23 proposed budget is in essence a level-service Police Dep't budget with a proposed 5.8% increase resulting primarily from personnel and labor costs;
- Police union negotiations are on the near horizon;

- The Animal control budget line has increased due to a change in this shared cost item, with the Town of Hull no longer sharing/contributing to this budget item, with some remaining cost deferral received from the Town of Norwell;
- The overall budget split is approx. 80% personnel, 11% SHREK (shared 911 response), and 9% other/misc. items;
- The Department has a known structural budget deficit due to minimum staffing requirements in the union contract, which results in overtime costs rather than hiring new FTE line officers;
- Mike Barclay and Chief Quigley are going to undertake an analysis and review of the budget impacts of hiring 1 new FTE patrol officer (increasing non-OT personnel budget including benefits, while reducing the OT budget), but likely timing is for consideration during FY23 and not in advance of FY23; and
- Mike Barclay and Chief Quigley highlighted the requested capital expense items, including replacement of the station's radio unit and annual replacement/rotation of two cruisers.

Chief Quigley and Mike Barclay responded to questions posed by other Advisory Committee members.

3. FY23 Budget Presentation by Fire Department

Mike Barclay, liaison to the Public Safety Department, noted that the complete FY23 proposed Fire Department budget would be presented by the Chief(s) at an upcoming Advisory Committee meeting (likely on 3/9/22), but gave a quick preview. He noted that proposed expense increases will be driven primarily by capital expense items, several of which are just below the \$10,000 Capital Budget Committee review threshold. Items on the proposed capital budget may include: PPE; vehicle maintenance and repair; a striker chair replacement; and other items. The Advisory Committee will go into Executive Session at the end of this meeting to receive an update from the Town Manager on the status of union contract negotiations with the Fire Department's union.

4. Preview of Expected FY23 Overall Town Budget Issues & Warrant Articles for Annual Town Meeting

Chris Senior presented an early rundown of expected Budget issues and Warrant Articles for the upcoming May 2022 Annual Town Meeting, highlighting of note:

- 22 expected Warrant Articles, consisting mostly of recurring annual items and no zoning by-law articles;
- 2 proposed citizens petitions, including a remote town meeting attendance proposal and town election requirement for non-budgeted expense items of greater than \$1 million;
- Articles proposing to allow the Cook Estate homes to connect to Town Sewer through an expansion of the sewer district due to the failed private septic system of this 21-home development, with all costs to be paid and/or financed by the homeowners (not the Town);
- An article proposing to transfer two Town-owned undeveloped residential lots (on Mill Lane and Heather Drive) to the Cohasset Affordable Housing Trust to support its efforts to develop affordable housing in Cohasset; and
- An article by the Town Hall Building Committee to devote \$200,000 of its previously-allocated funds for use to hire an at-risk construction manager for the bidding and pre-construction phase of the project.

Chris Senior and Robert Hillman responded to questions posed by other Advisory Committee members.

5. Approval of Minutes

- **Motion** by Mary McGoldrick to approve the January 19, 2022 draft minutes. Motion seconded by Jeanne Astino. **On a roll call vote, all members voted Aye except Fran Collins abstained.** (8-0-1)
- **Motion** by Mary McGoldrick to approve the February 2, 2022 draft minutes. Motion seconded by Mike Barclay. **On a roll call vote all members voted Aye.** (9-0-0)
- **Motion** by Jeanne Astino to approve the February 16, 2022 draft minutes. Motion seconded by Mike Barclay. **On a roll call vote all members voted Aye.** (9-0-0)

6. Topics not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours of meeting posting / Upcoming Meetings: No business was discussed that was not on the Agenda. Upcoming meetings to take place on: March 8 (joint with Select Board), March 9, March 15 (joint with Select Board), March 16 (to include a presentation by the Town Hall Building Committee, and March 23.

7. Motion to Enter Executive Session and Adjourn Public Meeting at Conclusion of Executive Session

- At 8:30 p.m., upon the conclusion of all other business, Jeanne Astino made a motion for the Advisory Committee to enter into Executive Session under an exemption permitted by the Mass. General Laws – namely, to obtain an update on ongoing union contract negotiations between the Town of Cohasset and the Fire Department’s local union bargaining unit, where doing so in public session would be detrimental to the Town’s interests – and to Adjourn the Advisory Committee meeting immediately upon completion of the Executive Session without returning to public session. Mike Barclay seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members present voted Aye (9-0-0).
- The Advisory Committee entered Executive Session at 8:32 p.m.
- The Advisory Committee adjourned its meeting and concluded its business at 9:20 p.m.