

Cohasset Advisory Committee Held Jointly with Select Board

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Virtual Meeting-Zoom Video Call

7:30 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: None.

This meeting was recorded. Joint Meeting of the Advisory Committee with the Cohasset Select Board was called to order at 8:17 p.m. by Chair Robert Hillman.

Advisory Committee Members in Attendance:

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

Advisory Committee Members Absent:

Mike Barclay and Mary McGoldrick.

Guests: Chris Senior, Town Manager; Chair Kerry Thompson, Vice Chair Corey Evans, and Members of Select Board Jack Creighton and Jean Healey-Dippold; and Citizens Petition proponent Lee Jenkins.

I. Proposed Citizens Petition Article for May 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Citizens Petition proponent Lee Jenkins presented and discussed the rationale for a citizens petition article on the May 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. In summary, the article would require that any non-budgeted Town of Cohasset expense item of \$1 million or more, which is authorized to be spent by Town Meeting from free cash or otherwise, only be authorized to be expended by the Town of Cohasset after a majority of its registered votes also approve the expenditure at a special or regularly-scheduled Town Election. Mr. Jenkins' rationale for the article included:

- Town Meeting only has a quorum requirement of 100 registered voters;
- A relatively small number of residents (100 or more at a Town Meeting) can currently approve significant expenditures of \$1 million or more;
- An election requirement for unbudgeted expenditures of \$1 million or more approved at a Town Meeting would provide an additional safeguard protecting taxpayers and residents from hasty or unwarranted large expenditures; and
- The proposal would require consideration of unbudgeted, large expenditures of \$1 million or more by more residents/registered voters because Town Elections generally attract a larger turn-out than Town Meetings.

Mr. Jenkins and Town Manager Chris Senior responded to questions posed by Select Board and Advisory Committee members.

Motion to Adjourn the Advisory Committee portion of Joint Meeting with the Select Board made by Mark Maggi, and Jeanne Astino seconded the motion. All present members voted Aye (7-0-0).

Meeting Adjourned at 8:36 p.m.