

Cohasset Advisory Committee
Tuesday, February 23, 2021
Virtual Meeting Zoom Video
Joint Meeting with Select Board
7:35 pm

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

Documents Received: 10 budget documents received from Tracey Connors on February 23, 2021.

This meeting was recorded

Meeting was called to order after 8:00 pm.

Advisory Committee Members in attendance: Mary McGoldrick, Jean Astino, Jean Healey, Lee Jenkins, Helene Lieb, Mary M. Meg Wheeler, Rob Hillman.

Guests: Chris Senior, Don Piatt

Select Board attendance: Diane Kennedy, Paul Schubert, Corey Evans, Paul Creighton, Keri Thompson.

Budget Presentation

Don Piatt presented an overview on the FY 21 budget:

- General fund ahead of schedule, local receipts trailing due to motor vehicle excise receipts (which will come in through February and March). We are slightly below where we were last year. There is was small decrease in investment earnings, compared to last year, although we were prepared for that from a budget standpoint.
- Budget: No departmental issues noted. Covid expenses in Department budgets and will reclassified, if and when the FEMA reimbursement and CARES Act grants come through.
- Sewer: We continue to do well. Usage and connection fees continue to drive better than expected results. On expenditure side, progress is good, nothing is sticking out. We will see better than expected results for the grinder pump sales.
- Water: Revenue at 62.5% with connection and usage fees being big drivers and there are no issues on the revenue side. Hydrant fee has not been collected yet. On expenditure side, we are looking good.

FY 22 Forecast:

- C. Senior Highlights: there is an unexpected pension cost, the Select Board made a commitment to base raise for staff (COLA raise, plus step raises); and the Town wanted to maintain OPEB contribution.
- Don Piatt presented on the FY 22 budget, starting with projected levy.

- State aid is almost the same as last year, in terms of proposal. State aid was budgeted at 3.4 million, essentially the same as last year.
- Local receipts: There was a small decrease due to timing of betterment assessments paid for out of budget, they increased MV excise by 100K due to recent commitments, and overall, there is a net increase of local receipts of 100K.
- Norfolk county imposed an increase of 22%, but we only budgeted 10% increase, so 22% is a big hit. They are proposing to use free cash of \$130K to address the initial increase, with the remaining \$350K needing to be funded from free cash at a later town meeting.
- They are maintaining transfers to capital stabilization and the local receipts of betterment go to pay down the debt, which allowed the transfers to the capital stabilization fund.
- Health insurance costs went down slightly. Cohasset is getting a one-month premium holiday and that payment holiday will be used to reduce next years' health insurance line item (compared to what it would have been, accounting for projected increases).
- There are also larger changes related to debt changes and any decrease in excluded debt is a decrease in tax levy, not the operational budget.
- Net budget is changing 2.2%.

Motion to Adjourn by Lee Jenkins, Seconded by Meg W. Jean A. -aye, Jean H. - aye, Lee J.- aye, Helene L. – aye, Mary M. – aye- Meg W. – aye, Rob H. – aye

/s/ Jean M. Healey Dippold