

Cohasset Advisory Committee
Wednesday, September 29, 2021
Virtual Meeting-Zoom Video Call
7:00 p.m.

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: Draft Advisory Comm. Budget Message Memo; Reserve Fund Approval History; Reserve Fund Budget Analysis Comparison to other Communities; Draft Minutes 9/15/21; Draft Minutes 7/13/21.

This meeting was recorded. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Advisory Committee Members in Attendance:

Jeanne Astino, Mike Barclay, Fran Collins (arr. 7:03 p.m.), Robert Hillman, J. Patrick Kennedy, Mark Maggi, Mary McGoldrick, Meg Wheeler

Guests: Town Manager Chris Senior, Director of Finance Don Piatt

I. Discussion re: Reserve Fund Function & Performance

Don Piatt led a discussion of the purpose, function and performance of Cohasset's Reserve Fund over the past five years, introducing two charts for explanation. Questions were posed about whether the target of 1% of the Town's annual budget exceeds what is needed based on recent history. Don Piatt agreed to provide the Adv. Comm. with additional performance history going back ten years.

II. Discussion re: Advisory Comm. Draft Budget Message Memo

Rob Hillman led a discussion of the Draft Advisory Comm. Budget Message Memo that was circulated prior to the meeting. Minor edits were proposed and agreed to in paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 5. The most significant proposal during the discussion was Chris Senior stating that he may recommend to the Select Board that the Town reduce the target Reserve Fund percentage from 1% to 0.7% or 0.5% in future years due to historical under-use and the comparison of other communities.

Mark Maggi moved that the Adv. Comm. approve the Advisory Comm. Budget Message Memo as revised; Jeanne Astino seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken with all members voting aye.

III. Liaison Reports & Discussion

Mike Barclay updated the Comm. about his tour of the public safety building and meeting with Chief Quigley. The Committee reviewed the Liaison assignments, and Patrick Kennedy agreed to be the liaison to Library/Elder Affairs. Mary McGoldrick agreed to circulate the updated list of liaison assignments following the meeting.

IV. Discussion of Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Rob Hillman and Chris Senior led a discussion of the planned warrant articles for the upcoming December 2021 Special Town Meeting. At this time, the warrant articles include capital budget items (defibrillators), CPC funding for athletic and recreation fields, a potential donation to the Town of vacant land near the water supply, three zoning articles resulting from the Master Plan implementation group (change in the Town's bylaw on single lot exemptions; changes to residential zoning definitions; and ledge protection), and a potential citizens petition regarding baseball field lights on Town property.

V. Approval of Minutes

For the minutes of the 9/15/21 meeting, Fran Collins moved that they be adopted, Mary McGoldrick seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

For the minutes of the 7/13/21 meeting, Meg Wheeler moved that they be adopted, Jeanne Astino seconded the motion, and on a roll-call vote Rob Hillman, Meg Wheeler, Fran Collins and Jeanne Astino voted aye resulting in their approval. The remaining members present abstained due to not being on the Committee on the date of that meeting or being absent from that meeting.

There were no Topics not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours of the meeting discussed.

Next Meetings: October 13, 7:00 pm and then October 27, 7:00 pm.

Motion to Adjourn by Mike Barclay, Fran Collins seconded. All members voted aye.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:33 p.m.