

Cohasset Advisory Committee Held Jointly with Select Board

Thursday, March 31, 2022

Virtual Meeting-Zoom Video Call

7:15 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: Draft School Department Budget; Draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant including its Appendix A Overall Town Operating Budget.

This meeting was recorded. Joint Meeting of the Advisory Committee with the Cohasset Select Board was called to order at approximately 7:15 p.m. by Chair Robert Hillman.

Advisory Committee Members in Attendance:

Jeanne Astino, Mike Barclay, Fran Collins, Robert Hillman, J. Patrick Kennedy and Mary McGoldrick.

Advisory Committee Members Absent:

Adam Amann, Mark Maggi and Meg Wheeler.

Guests: Chris Senior, Town Manager; Don Piatt, Director of Finance; Chair Kerry Thompson, Vice Chair Corey Evans, and Members of Select Board Jack Creighton and Jean Healey-Dippold; Craig MacLellan, School Comm. Chair; Patrick Sullivan, Superintendent of Schools; and Susan Owen, School Department Finance Director.

I. School Department Budget Presentation

The School Department, through its Finance Director and Superintendent, presented the proposed 2022 to 2023 fiscal year budget. It proposes an increase that exceeds the annual maximum tax levy of 2 and ½ percent plus the 61/39 allocation of new growth, but is a reduction from initial proposed budgets following working group meetings with Advisory Committee members Jeanne Astino and Mary McGoldrick. Messrs. MacLellan and Sullivan, and Ms. Owen, responded to questions by Advisory Committee members, including about line items and employees who were moved to the shared budget or Town-side budget for the coming fiscal year.

II. Overall Town Operating Budget – Appendix A to Draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Director of Finance Don Piatt made a presentation of the updated overall proposed Town Operating Budget for 2022 to 2023 which includes the proposed School Department Budget, using the March 30, 2022 version of Appendix A to the Draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Messrs. Piatt and Senior responded to questions by Advisory Committee members.

At the conclusion of the presentation, after all questions were responded to, member Jeanne Astino made a motion for the Advisory Committee to recommend Article 4 in the March 30, 2022 Draft Town Meeting Warrant, including its Appendix A proposed Operating Budget, to Town Meeting. The motion was seconded by member Mike Barclay. On a roll-call vote, all present members voted AYE (6-0-0).

Led by Chair Hillman, the Committee had a brief discussion of upcoming meetings and planned business, noting that the Advisory Committee still has Capital Budget Committee, CPA Committee, and Alternative Energy Committee proposed warrant articles to discuss and vote on prior to warrant closure. The next meeting is scheduled for April 5, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn the Advisory Committee portion of Joint Meeting with the Select Board made by Jeanne Astino, and Mike Barclay seconded the motion. On a roll-call vote, all present members voted Aye (6-0-0).

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 p.m.