

Cohasset Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

Virtual Meeting-Zoom Video Call

6:00 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: Updated Draft Warrant dated as of April 5, 2022 for 2022 Annual Town Meeting.

This meeting was recorded. Meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00 pm by Chair Robert Hillman, with a quorum present.

Advisory Committee Members in Attendance: Jeanne Astino, Michael Barclay, Fran Collins, Robert Hillman, J. Patrick Kennedy, Mark Maggi, and Mary McGoldrick.

Advisory Committee Members Absent: Adam Amann and Meg Wheeler.

Guests: Chris Senior, Town Manager; Don Piatt, Director of Finance; and Brian Host, Chair and Michael Dick, Vice-Chair of Capital Budget Committee.

1. Discussion and Recommended Vote on Capital Budget Warrant Article for Annual Town Meeting

Chair Robert Hillman asked member Mike Barclay, liaison to the Capital Budget Committee, to provide an update to the members regarding the Capital Budget items on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, which he did with the assistance of Messrs. Host, Dick, Senior, and Piatt. Presentation was made, and members asked questions which were responded to, about the following capital budget items and project statuses:

- Enterprise Funds – Water & Sewer Department capital items, including status of repaving South Main Street following pipe installation project; state revolving fund application for 0% interest loan for FY '24 planned work; and an update that the Capital Budget had voted to recommend all four Water & Sewer Department capital items on the draft Warrant to Annual Town Meeting.
- Town & Department Requests – 21 separate items on the current Draft Warrant were discussed, with questions answered.
- Following discussion and with all questions answered, Jeanne Astino moved to recommend the Capital Budget Warrant Article for Annual Town Meeting, as presented in the April 5, 2022 Draft Warrant Article, to Town Meeting; Fran Collins seconded the motion; and pursuant to a roll call vote, all members voted AYE (7-0-0).

2. Discussion and Recommended Vote on CPA Warrant Article for Annual Town Meeting

Town Manager Chris Senior updated Advisory Committee members that two previous Community Preservation Act (CPA) projects that had been approved at prior Town Meetings required extensions in order to complete the projects, with funding to be carried over from prior fiscal years, as set forth in Draft Warrant Article 14 addressing CPA projects. Questions by Advisory Committee members were answered. It was noted that the Town Library roofing project was still being discussed and was under

consideration by both the Capital Budget Committee and Community Preservation Committee, so further discussion and vote by the Advisory Committee was deferred until a future meeting.

- Following discussion, Jeanne Astino moved to recommend the extension of two prior CPA projects, as presented in the April 5, 2022 Draft Warrant Article, to Town Meeting; Mike Barclay seconded the motion; and pursuant to a roll call vote, all members voted AYE (7-0-0).

3. Discussion and Recommended Vote on Water Department PFAS Mitigation Warrant Article for Annual Town Meeting

Town Manager Chris Senior led a discussion of the need for and recommended purchase of GAC filtration technology by the Water Department to address and remediate elevated PFAS levels detected in one of two groundwater well sites feeding the Town's water supply (which very slightly exceeded Mass. DEP maximum levels, which it was noted are much more conservative than federal EPA and neighboring states' standards). The Cohasset groundwater well site has been shut down following receipt of the elevated PFAS level testing results, until remediation technology has been installed. Advisory Committee members asked questions about the science, need, testing levels, timing, costs, and whether there were any alternatives, all of which were responded to by Mr. Senior and other members of the Committee. It was noted that the informational summary in the Town Meeting Warrant should note that approval of the investment in this PFAS filtration technology would not result in increased water rates.

- Following discussion, Jeanne Astino moved to recommend Draft Warrant Article 14 for purchase and installation of PFAS filtration remediation technology, as presented in the April 5, 2022 Draft Warrant Article, to Town Meeting; Fran Collins seconded the motion; and pursuant to a roll call vote, all members voted AYE (7-0-0).

4. Next Meeting & Other Business

The Advisory Committee's next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 7:00 pm. It was noted that during that meeting there will be a discussion of designating Advisory Committee meeting members to present or speak about specific Warrant Articles during the Annual Town Meeting. There was no 48-hour business raised by the Chair or any other member, and accordingly no other business was discussed.

Motion to Adjourn by Jeanne Astino, seconded by Mike Barclay, and on a roll call vote all present members voted Aye (7-0-0).

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m.