

Cohasset Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Virtual Meeting-Zoom Video Call

7:00 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: Draft of Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Message Memo from Advisory Committee to Select Board, prepared by Chair Robert Hillman.

This meeting was recorded. Meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 pm by Chair Robert Hillman, with a quorum present.

Advisory Committee Members in Attendance: Michael Barclay, Robert Hillman, J. Patrick Kennedy, Mark Maggi, Ellen Maher, and Mary McGoldrick.

Advisory Committee Members Absent: Jeanne Astino, Fran Collins, and Meg Wheeler.

Documents Presented: Draft Advisory Committee Minutes for Meetings held on March 22, March 30, March 31, and April 27, 2022.

Guest: Chris Senior, Town Manager.

1. Advisory Committee Memo to Select Board Regarding Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Message

Chair Robert Hillman reviewed and led discussion on the Draft Advisory Committee Memorandum to the Select Board Regarding the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Message, copies of which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Town Manager Chris Senior answered questions posed by members regarding certain aspects of the fiscal year 2024 budget process. Discussion centered on whether the Town's fiscal policy setting the reserve fund at 1% of the total tax levy should be reviewed and adjusted in light of historical practices, including failing to fund the reserve fund at that level in prior years' budgets and recent years' transfers from the reserve fund not reaching (and in some years, not approaching) the budgeted amount. It was noted that when a fiscal policy is not being followed, the Town should either change it to reflect current practice or should follow it. The Committee also discussed a recommendation that the Capital Budget line item in the Town's annual operating budget be increased to reflect inflationary pressures, as it has remained static for approximately the past ten years.

- Following discussion and with all questions answered, Mike Barclay moved for the Committee to authorize Chair Robert Hillman and Vice-Chair Mary McGoldrick to finalize and send the Advisory Committee Memorandum to the Select Board Regarding the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Message in accordance with discussion at the meeting; Mary McGoldrick seconded the motion; and pursuant to a roll-call vote, all present members voted AYE (6-0-0).

2. Liaison Assignments & Reports

Member Mike Barclay provided the Committee with a status update regarding a September 12, 2022 meeting of the newly-formed Committee or Working Group charged with reviewing and making

recommendations about the long-term capital planning expenditures and projects facing the Town during the next ten years. Vice-Chair Mary McGoldrick provided the Committee with a status update regarding School Committee and related budget activities. No other liaison reports were provided.

3. Special Town Meeting Date & Planning

Chair Robert Hillman asked Town Manager Chris Senior to provide an update regarding the Town's fall Special Town Meeting. Mr. Senior noted that the Select Board had set the Special Town Meeting on Monday, December 12, 2022 at 7:00 pm. The warrant has been opened and the citizens petition deadline is running. Mr. Senior provided an early summary of expected warrant articles, including several financial clean-up articles (such as authorizing payment of unpaid bills from prior fiscal years), Water Commission articles (possibly four total), a conservation article regarding the stormwater by-law, and a possible home-rule petition to exempt police hiring out of civil service. Mr. Senior noted that no zoning by-law articles are anticipated on this warrant.

4. Meeting Scheduling

The Committee had a discussion regarding the scheduling of meetings, and it was decided that the Committee would meet on October 5, October 19, and possibly on October 26, 2022, subject to need.

With its business completed, Motion to Adjourn by Mark Maggi, seconded by Mary McGoldrick, and on a roll-call vote all present members voted Aye (6-0-0).

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.