

ADVISORY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes
January 17, 2024, Hybrid Meeting

PRESENT **15 members of the committee were present:** Gail Butler, Louis Cabana, Brian Dunn, Daniel Green, Bruce Howard, Joe Lalley, Timothy Lawlor, Steve Nearman, Lorenzo Pizarro, Christine Richards, Bethany Rogers, Ashley Shaw, Emily Tompkins, Jim Young, and Robert Zupperoli.

ABSENT **No members of the committee were absent.**

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Nearman at 7:00 PM.

Announcements

- **Hybrid Meeting:** This meeting is likely to be conducted in a hybrid format, with some participants attending physically and others attending virtually via a video conference application.
- **Ways to Watch:** The meeting will be airing on Comcast 9, Verizon 47, or on PACTV's YouTube channel which can be viewed at pactv.org/stream.
- **Public Comment:** Any speaker giving public comment is allotted up to 5 minutes in which to speak. Public Comment can be made at the beginning or end of each meeting, or in regard to a particular agenda item the speaker wishes to be heard on
- **Zoom Login Information:** Anyone who wants to attend the meeting virtually, including members of the public who wish to give public comment, can use one of the following methods in which to do so:
 - **Join via Zoom application:** Download the Zoom meeting application on your device, press/click on "Join", then enter Meeting ID: **995 2986 0638**, and then the Meeting Password: **100131**, or
 - **Join via website** (requires microphone): Go to www.zoom.us, click "Join A Meeting" on the top righthand side, and enter the meeting ID: **995 2986 0638**, and then the meeting password **100131**, or
 - **Join via Telephone (voice only):** Dial **929-205-6099** and Enter Meeting ID: **995 2986 0638** and enter Meeting Password: **100131**

Public Comment - None.

Agenda Items

Approve Minutes: Approve minutes of the January 10, 2024, meeting. Ms. Butler moved to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Dunn second. Motion carried 12-0-2, Ms. Rogers and Ms. Shaw abstained.

Review Town Meeting Annual Articles

Article 8: Facility Capital Maintenance Stabilization & Nuclear Stabilization Funds – The select board goal is to put money aside for the purchase of the Holtec property and fund the facilities maintenance.

Mr. Howard asked if voting down Article 8 would help alleviate the budget challenges of the Operating Budget. Ms. Barrett advised that the Town has challenges with the budget but wouldn't recommend voting against this. Mr. Brindisi advised that the facilities are in rough shape and need repairs while being responsible to the budget. Mr. Lalley asked what the percentage of the \$1 mil is to the budget. Ms. Barrett said it was 6 cents per assessment. Mr. Nearman asked if this article was a mandate. Ms. Barrett said no. Mr. Pizarro wanted the balance in the facility stabilization fund. Ms. Barrett said it was 5.9 mil. Mr. Pizarro asked if it is

equivalent to a savings account. Ms. Barrett said yes.

Mr. Young motioned to approve Article 8 to Town Meeting. Mr. Lawlor second. Mr. Zupperoli thinks we need to be careful about how we think about this Article. He feels the purchase of the Holtec land in full, or a portion, is very important. Mr. Howard questioned spending money on these items. Mr. Lawlor is also very concerned about the budget. Ms. Rogers isn't sure she can support putting funds aside when we have a budget shortfall. Mr. Nearman asked if this money could be used for the operating budget. Ms. Barrett replied, yes, it could be but the Select Board isn't recommending that.

Mr. Dunn made a motion to amend to separate Article 8. Ms. Richards second. Mr. Young withdrew his original motion.

Mr. Dunn motioned to approve the Facilities Capital Maintenance Stabilization Fund. Mr. Cabana second. Motion carried 10-4-0, Mr. Howard, Mr. Pizarro, Ms. Rogers, and Ms. Tompkins opposed.

Mr. Howard moved to approve the Nuclear Stabilization Fund. Ms. Rogers second.

Mr. Lawlor thinks now is the time to make a statement and fiscal control is necessary and encourages his fellow members to pay attention. Ms. Butler feels that if this property is purchased by someone else a lot of damage can be done. Mr. Dunn and Ms. Richards stated they are opposed to funding this item for FY25. Motioned failed 2-12-0. Ms. Tompkins and Mr. Zupperoli supported.

Article 9: Capital

All project submissions can be reviewed here:

<https://www.plymouth-ma.gov/1278/2024-SPRING-ANNUAL-TOWN-MEETING-FY25-SAT>

Ms. Barrett discussed the Capital process and advised that the capital requests were submitted, reviewed, prioritized, and approved by the Capital Improvement Committee. Ms. Barrett reviewed her memo and discussed the funding sources.

Mr. Howard asked if the whole list was not approved, could the borrowing be reduced. No, this is capital and borrowing isn't recommended for the budget. Ms. Rogers asked Chief Neil Foley how often the Fireboat has been used over the last 5 years. Chief Foley stated that a couple of times a year. He noted that the boat is specialized with firefighting capabilities and not like other boats. He also noted that it was acquired using a grant from the coast guard.

Mr. Pizarro confirmed that the capital requirement is lifespan over 5 years and costs \$15,000 or higher. Ms. Barrett discussed short-term and long-term borrowing. Mr. Pizarro asked if a 30-year bond is standard. Ms. Barrett advised that it depends. Mr. Pizarro asked what the current debt service is. Ms. Barrett said it is \$18 mil.

Mr. Green asked if all articles on the spreadsheet are for Article 9. Ms. Barrett said no. There is an Article 4 request and CPC Article 16D request that were reviewed and approved by CIC and will be heard by the A&F at a later date.

Ms. Richards asked if CPC funds could be used for Nathaniel Morton due to the age and historical significance of the school. Mr. Blaisdale said they were thinking the same thing and would open a dialogue.

Ms. Rogers asked for an overview of the IT Department requests. Mr. Young, IT Director, discussed the projects, needs and safety aspect for the requested items.

Mr. Zupperoli motioned to approve Article 9. Mr. Green motioned to separate Enterprise Fund Articles to vote separate. Mr. Zupperoli withdrew his original motion. Mr. Dunn second. Motion carried unanimously (14-0-0).

Mr. Young motioned to approve the Article 9 Enterprise Fund. Mr. Dunn second.
Motion carried unanimously (14-0-0).

Mr. Zupperoli motioned to approve the remaining Article 9 items. Ms. Richards second. Ms. Rogers appreciates that everyone on the committee is concerned about saving money and she feels that all the capital projects are important and for the greater good of the Town. Mr. Green asked if free cash can be voted to be used for the operating budget. Ms. Barrett replied yes but wouldn't recommend it. Motion carried (13-1-0). Mr. Lawlor opposed.

Old/New/Other Business None.

Public Comment None.

Adjournment Mr. Zupperoli motioned to adjourn. Ms. Shaw second. Motion carried unanimously (14-0-0).
Meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Submitted by
Jeanette White
Budget Analyst