

ADVISORY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes
January 18, 2023, Hybrid Meeting

PRESENT **10 members of the committee were present:**

Gail Butler, Louis Cabana, Kevin Canty, Brian Dunn, Bruce Howard, Steven Keith, Timothy Lawlor, Christine Richards, Evelyn Strawn, and Robert Zupperoli.

ABSENT **5 member of the committee was absent:** Joe Lalley, Larry McGrath, Steve Nearman, Bethany Rogers, Ashley Shaw.

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kevin Canty 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 15, 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

Agenda Items

Town Meeting Articles

Article 13: Town Promotion Fund- Mr. Lee Hartmann, Planning Director, advised that he would be running a presentation by Lee Filson of See Plymouth in the background for the Committee to view while he discussed the Promotion Fund costs and expenditures. Mr. Steve Lydon, Visitors Service Board Chair, attended the meeting also. Mr. Hartmann discussed the receipts collected from the Hotel/Motel tax and noted that the receipts increased by 16% from last year. He explained that Plymouth places 45% of the total Hotel/Motel tax into the Promotion Fund. The Visitor Services Board oversees expenditures from the Promotion Fund. Mr. Hartmann presented the FY24 Town Promotion Fund budget of \$1,246,406. Mr. Keith asked how much was received from the Airbnb tax? Mr. Hartmann advised that \$158,000 was paid in Short Term Rental tax. Ms. Richards asked if the Parks Dept flower baskets, lights, wreaths etc. could be spread out in the Town. Mr. Hartmann advised that Planning considers requests for funding but the DPW would do the work and therefore they would have to approve it first. Ms. Butler moved to approve Article 13 to Town Meeting. Mr. Cabana second. Motion carried unanimous (9-0-0).

Article 15: Title V Repair Fund – Mr. Hartmann advised that this is the 16th round of funding for this program. Planning is requesting authorization to borrow \$400,000 for this program for FY24. This program has successfully offered greatly needed septic system improvement funds to residents based on income requirements. The Town borrows these funds from the State at a 2% interest rate and these funds are loaned to households, through an application process, at a 5% interest rate which is collected through the tax bill process. The loans can be up to \$35,000 for terms of 5 to 15 years and are recorded as liens on the property. In the event the loan is defaulted, the Town has a lien on the property so the investment is secure. Mr. Dunn moved to recommend Town Meeting approve Article 15. Mr. Howard second. Motion carried unanimously (9-0-0).

Old/New/Other Business - Chairman Canty discussed the Sub-Committee budget meetings. Chairman Canty advised that next week's meeting is cancelled so the next scheduled meeting is February 1st.

Public Comment None.

Adjournment Mr. Keith motioned to adjourn. Mr. Lawlor second. Motion carried unanimously (9-0-0). The meeting adjourned at 7:38 P.M.

Submitted by
Jeanette White
Budget Analyst