

**Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
2/2/2017**

In attendance: Committee Members Anderson, Baltera, Belyea, Coughlin, Curley, Hancock, Haskell, Kelley, Kutsch, Sharkansky, Smallwood, Strehle, and Taylor and Town Accountant Nickerson.

Chairman Taylor called the meeting, which was a joint session with the Board of Selectmen, to order at 7:12 p.m.

Questions from the public on items not on the agenda: None

Warrant hearing and vote

Article U – Insurance Recovery - East School

After Kutsch presented this article, members adjusted the Recommended Motion with the addition of “for FY 2017.” AdCom members then approved Article U as amended by a vote of 12-0.

Article V – Insurance Recovery – South School

After Kutsch presented this article, members adjusted the Recommended Motion with the addition of “for FY 2017.” AdCom members approved Article V as amended by a vote of 12-0.

Budget Presentation from the School Department

School Superintendent Dorothy Galo outlined the Administration’s original proposed level services budget totaling \$50,279,561, which represents a 5.6% increase over FY 2017. Subsequent corrections, personnel changes, and applications of additional revenue resulted in reductions of \$183,777, making the current budget proposal \$50,095,784, a \$2,482,060 increase over FY 2017 (5.2%).

During the ensuing conversation, participants discussed reallocating resources among schools as enrollments shift, applying additional revenue from School revolving accounts, and the roles of the Selectmen, Advisory Committee, and School Committee in the budget process. With the Town’s tax revenue growth capped at 2.5%, a School budget increase request of 5.2% is quite challenging to balance with competing Town needs. Participants also expressed concern about the long-term sustainability of School personnel cost increases.

Selectmen, School Committee, and AdCom leaders acknowledged receipt of parent communications about Hingham’s special education services. Several parents spoke requesting better results for students with special needs.

Community Preservation Committee review of warrant articles

Community Preservation Committee Chair Carol Pyles provided an overview of the 12 CPA projects recommended for this year. CPC proposes \$1,086,629 for projects, including ongoing commitments to the Heritage Museum and Lehner Property acquisition, with \$153,484 held in reserve.

In the discussion that followed, participants noted likely reductions in future CPA funds as more communities, including Boston, share in the available State funds. Early debt repayment for the Museum and Lehner obligations represents substantial savings opportunities. CPC Chair Pyles responded to questions about several projects including the Old Ship steeple, clock restorations, and Harbor walkway.

Matters not anticipated within 48 hours: None

Adjournment

The Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Smallwood
Secretary

Documents:

Agenda - AdCom Meeting/Joint Session with Board of Selectmen 2/2/2017

Article A – Hannah Lincoln Whiting Fund (with revised Explanation text)

Article U – Insurance Recovery East School

Article V – Insurance Recovery South School

Hingham Public School Budget Overview for FY 18 – Operating Budget Proposal from the
Administration to the School Committee 2/2/2017 (slides)

Town of Hingham Community Preservation Act – Community Preservation Committee 2017 Overview
(slides)