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**TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES
January 14, 2009

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FOXBOROUGH, MA 02035

Committee Members Present: Lauren Bitar, Lorraine Brue, Jim Devellis, John Dustin, Michael Fitzmaurice, Thom Freeman, Bob Garber, H Hardie, Tim Kenneally, Jeff Rudd, Jenna Strickland, Brian Walton.

Members Absent: Gary Whitehouse

Others Present: Andy gala, Town Manager, Randy Scollins, Finance Director, Leo Potter and Phil Henderson, Water & Sewer, Bob Swanson, Highway Department.

The meeting was brought to order at 7:30 PM by Lorraine Brue, Chairperson.

7:30 – Dept. #450 and 460 - Water & Sewer Enterprise Budget Review – Phil Henderson gave a brief summary of the budget. He said this is the first year including the Witch Pond Well operation. A new employee was brought on board mid-year to service that site. The treatment at that well site is above and beyond what the other sites require. That person is not there full time, only about four hours a day and one full day. The start up for that site would be towards the end of the summer and by that time they would know just what the needs would be. Lorraine Brue questioned the increase during 2008 and 2009 of adding supervisory personnel to fill a vacancy. She also asked about when the Department expects the sewer program to get going. Phil Henderson pointed out that there is a need in that area to satisfy the regulatory requirements.

Leo Potter, Superintendent, reviewed the expenses. He said the chemicals have all increased in costs particularly the increase in caustic soda. He said he would be asking for a supplementary increase in the budget. Randy Scollins said he had been over the budget and made some changes, the Board would be advised of the changes with new budget pages. He said there is still some uncertainty regarding the cost of diesel and heating fuel. Debt Service and Capital Outlay were discussed. The Capital Outlay budget reflects a request for a new truck that would be dedicated to use in the meter reading program. Leo Potter pointed out that radio meter reading is nearly complete. Leo Potter explained how the overtime expense is incurred. He said the pay is 1-1/2 per hour for Saturday and double time for Sunday hours. He said most of the overtime hours are a result of emergencies such as water main breaks or problems at a well site. Thom Freeman asked if the development of Chestnut Green had any effect on the Water & Sewer service and would there be any help from that development to defray the increased costs. Leo explained the only revenue from that development comes from connection fees and water usage. Other issue discussed included the possibility of storing large quantities of chemicals when prices are low, the average family usage, State mandates and laboratory analyses for the DEP and the arrangements with the Patriots regarding water re-use. Phil Henderson said water re-use fees were approved by the DEP and charges for water re-use is the same for all development in the Economic Development Area. Leo pointed out that conservation of water causes usage to go down and the Department loses revenue.

Sewer Enterprise Budget – Randy Scollins said there are only minor changes in this budget. He explained the charges by Mansfield for Foxborough sewer treatment. Phil Henderson said conversations have been on going with the Patriots about the future use of the treatment plant there. He also talked about the possibility of regaining the unused flow from the Foxborough Company and the fact that would free up flow for the downtown area.

8:00 – Dept. #424 and 425 - Street Lighting and Engineering – Andy Gala explained the Town has about 1500 lights and the Town currently owns about half. Those are maintained through a separate contract. Brief comments were made relative to the Chestnut Green traffic signal that is

confusing; a request has to be made to the Mass Highway Department to address this issue. Brian Walton mentioned the confusion created by a stop sign on Rt. 140 and the blinking caution light on the Common. He suggested a red blinking light instead of the yellow light.

Andy Gala said the Engineering budget is mostly for dam inspections. He explained briefly the State mandate that the dams in Town have to be maintained and/or repaired to meet State requirements. He received notice that there is one more dam that has to be repaired by February 1st.

8:10 – Dept. #410 - Highway/Tree & Park Budget – Bob Swanson, Highway Superintendent, was present to discuss this budget. He explained that the Tree & Park division is separate from road maintenance. Tree & Park are responsible for all grass and trees in Town, equipment and maintenance of small engines. He also pointed out that his department is responsible for maintenance of school busses and other vehicles owned by the Town except for the Fire trucks. He said one mechanic is dedicated to keeping the school busses running.

Bob Swanson said his Department has a hard time keeping up with the drainage problems in Town. In some instances he has to have private companies come in to “jet” the lines. He spoke about the additional playing fields and the new Public Safety Building as being additional responsibilities for his Department. Bob said he has a great need for an assistant to deal with the paper work particularly when dealing with the State for Chapter 90 reimbursements. He feels he could cut expenses by arranging work responsibilities in the office to work more efficiently by having one more staff person.

8:30 – Dept. # 423 - Snow & Ice Control - Bob Swanson said this account is about the same each year. He uses magnesium as an enhancement to the salt. He said the salt comes from the Caribbean. He tries to do snow removal during the day rather than at night but the Downtown area is done in one night. Thom Freeman asked if there is any magnesium leakage into the Town’s water supply. Bob explained that it is dissolved on the pavement so there is no problem there. Brian Walton asked how much of the snow and ice fund has been used all ready. Bob reported that about \$148,000 has been expended so far.

8:35 – Dept. #430 - Landfill Enterprise – Bob Swanson said all the landfill needs to be monitored and the compost is covered. He said the flares make for a nasty environment. He said there have been some saving in this budget.

8:35 – Dept. #433 - Solid Waste Collection – Bob Swanson explained the Town has a contract with American Waste System. The charge is \$86.00 per ton for removal. Andy Gala reported that WMS has got permission to build a transfer station in Brockton and if the Town could get a good disposal contract there could be some savings there. Randy Scollins said the charge of \$180.00 per year plus the tags covers 100% of the costs. He said if the trend continues there could possibly be a reduction on the fixed fees. The recycling program is very successful. Andy Gala said this is the last year of the contract with AWS; he doesn’t know whether the Town will extend the contract or whether it will go out for bid. He will talk to Town Counsel about that.

Discussion – Lauren Bitar asked about the status of State aid. Andy said the Governor has not yet announced his budget.

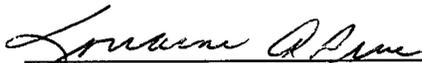
Randy Scollins asked that the Committee be aware of an increase in water/sewer rates of about 33%, expected later this year or early next; probably within the next six months.

Lorraine Brue asked that the Committee submit questions for Water & Sewer to the liaisons so they can take them to Leo or Phil for later discussions. She plans to ask W&S to come before the Committee again. There are many questions left unanswered. The revenue from advertising on the water tower goes directly to W&S. A comment made is there a possibility that depending on what happens with the Patriots, could one option be a \$5,000 betterment plus

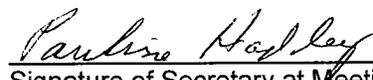
hooking into the system? Randy Scollins said why not go to the people with both options; the longer they wait, its not going to get any cheaper.

Motion to adjourn by Lauren Bitar. Seconded by Tim Kenneally.
Vote: 11-0-0 Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Minutes Approved by Vote of the Advisory Committee.
Date of Meeting: *2/24/09* Vote: *7-0-0*



Signature of Chairperson at Meeting of Vote



Signature of Secretary at Meeting of ~~November 19, 2008~~
January 14, 2009