

**TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
March 11, 2009**

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

Members Absent: Jeff Rudd

Others Present: Andy Gala, Town Manager  
Randy Scollins, Finance Director  
Bob Swanson, Highway Superintendent  
Marc Resnick, Town Planner  
Leo Potter, W&S Superintendent  
Phil Henderson, Chairman Board of W&S Commissioners

The meeting was brought to order at 7:30 p.m. by Jim Devellis, Vice Chairman.

**7:30 – Follow-up Discussions on Warrant Articles for Highway, W&S and Street**

**Acceptances** - Bob Swanson, Highway Superintendent, opened the discussion by saying that he had recently found out that Mass Highway had ceased to enforce a 5-year moratorium on cutting into pavements on State roads that had been recently paved. He explained that this had been the practice for the Town of Foxborough and he was unaware that the State no longer enforced that moratorium. He cited an issue that had been before him last year where the gas company wanted to cut into the pavement on Route 106. He denied that request. Bob further explained the various methods that could be used in such instances. He said the gas company did not want to use a trenchless method. Thom Freeman asked how this might be impacted by the by-law changes that are being considered. Andy Gala said this is a separate by-law and the party requesting the cut would have to apply for a license from the Highway Dept.

A discussion was held regarding upcoming projects for the Highway Dept., notifying residents when paving is scheduled and technology for installations by utilities.

Marc Resnick, Town Planner, came before the Committee to discuss the Street Acceptance articles on the Warrant. He explained that in all cases the streets are ready to be accepted by the Town. He explained that his department provides the developer with a list of items that must be completed; he then does a final inspection to make sure the street is completed before Town Meeting. He said it sometimes takes eight years from the start of construction before a street is accepted. Further discussion ensued including questions on whose responsibility it is to repair the street after it is accepted by the Town, whether the Planning Board had voted for acceptance and the number of miles of roadways.

Leo Potter, W&S Superintendent, was asked to comment further on the questions submitted by the Committee in his memo dated March 2, 2009. One of the first questions asked by the Committee was how could the Board of W&S Commissioners vote for a rate increase before they had any input from the Kraft organization regarding revenue from advertising on the ~~water tank~~ and is there a reason why they are not forthcoming with the information requested. Phil Henderson pointed out that Leo Potter has direct contact with the Kraft organization and has expressed the need for information. Gary Whitehouse asked if the Patriots had been given a time limit on when they have to "produce" the information. Phil Henderson said it is just a timing issue. Tim Kenneally asked if the Town had received any payment yet on the advertising on the water tower. Gary Whitehouse pointed out that the Town should get paid their share as soon as the Patriots are paid. Leo Potter said in the first year the fees were eaten up with construction costs. Thom Freeman asked about the length of the contract and is payment to be made on an annual

2009 MAR 21 PM 6:53  
RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
FOXBOROUGH, MA 02035

basis. Phil Henderson explained that W&S have a contract with the Patriots until 2012. He said the advertising is under the control of the Patriots. Phil said he is comfortable with the contract that W&S has with the Patriots, he said the numbers have been consistent and he would get the answers. Phil said he and Leo did not come prepared to answer questions regarding the signage and felt that the discussion should focus on the articles on the Warrant. He said the rate increase had to do with the increased costs of chemicals.

The discussion then turned to the request for a new vehicle. Leo Potter pointed out that there are nine vehicles for eleven staff members. He said most of the vehicles are designated for specific jobs and are used daily. Leo said that over the last nine years he had traded in seven vehicles and if they are still in working condition they are turned over to other departments. He said the Witch Pond Wells would require the use of a vehicle for a ½ day and could be used for meter reading. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the use of the truck for meter reading; it has to be mounted in the truck. Leo said he "would not want to put the equipment in a service truck". He said this is different from the hand held equipment and would cut the job of meter reading down to a "couple of days".

As far as the 5% rate increase goes, Leo Potter said the increase would match revenue with expenses taking into account \$210,000 he has to add to the budget for chemical costs. He said the increase is needed to balance the budget. He expects the water usage to be up slightly this year. Leo pointed out that there have been several increases in costs for iron and copper, increases in energy costs as well as new State requirements for lab tests, etc. Phil Henderson pointed out that there has not been a rate increase in two years; the Dept. needs to have money in reserve and put funds aside for other programs. He said they are looking at putting iron and manganese into other wells. Witch Pond is expected to be operating in the fall. Jim Devellis asked what can the Water Dept. do to try to get the budget to an appropriate level. Phil Henderson said they have been doing some analysis to match Foxborough with other towns. He said the staffing is below that of other communities in the area.

Lorraine Brue asked what purpose is there in waiting for 2012 to re-negotiate with the Patriots based on access to the plant on Route 1. Phil Henderson said they have an agreement in place until 2012 and he does not agree that the Town would never go to Route 1 as there may be a chance to do that. He thinks it would not be prudent for Foxborough to "walk away from that option". He pointed out that there could be the possibility that the other Towns would not vote in a regional district and then "what?" He asked where the money would come from then if the Town had to build its own plant. Other issues discussed included the cost of chemicals, whether less expensive chemicals might be used and the establishment of a sewer district.

**Special Town Meeting Warrant** – Leo Potter explained that they are basically budget balancing items. Article 2, Dept. #450 Water – Leo said this is related to additional chemical costs. He said the sewer credit was left over from last year. This is an adjustment in CIP to bring the revenue and expenses in line. Article 3 – Budget Supplement Sewer Enterprise – Randy Scollins pointed out that this article is unnecessary he could not see what it has to do with the CIP budget for 2009 and he has no objection to removing it from the Warrant.

**Article 5 – CIP Budget** – Andy Gala distributed copies of Article 5 and an update on the 5-year CIP Plan. He reported that his committee met with all department heads requesting various needs and the list was for much more than shown on Exhibit A. He said time was spent prioritizing the requests. Each item was reviewed. The request by Conservation is part of the on-going repair of Town owned dams. Randy Scollins pointed out that the repair of the dams is a \$1M five-year plan to repair the dams as mandated by the State. Brief comments were made regarding replacement of Police and Fire vehicles and equipment. Andy Gala said the School Dept. had several other items on their list. The committee voted to up-grade the computers, the purchase of three busses and to purchase three new copiers. A request to repair the tennis courts was granted as these could become a public liability since they are used by students as well as the public. Andy Gala pointed out that the request by W&S is for painting the water tanks

inside and out, in addition to replacing pumps when necessary, water meters and reading equipment. The Town's contribution for the Mansfield Treatment Plant renovation is also included in this budget. The total CIP Budget is \$2,322,000.

A brief discussion was held regarding the high school renovation project and free cash. Andy Gala said the high school project is estimated at about \$20M with the expectation of a 50% reimbursement by the State and \$50,000 transfer from the Public Safety Building account. Randy Scollins pointed out that this year the Town has seen a spike in free cash that will not be repeated. He sees the present economic situation in the country as a multiyear recession. He said the Town has to be prepared for a long down turn, however, he feels that the Town would be able to maintain services. Issues discussed regarding the W&S budget included the negotiated revenue agreement and the opinion that the Town would not be expanding sewerage to Route 1. In that case, the request for a new truck in the W&S department would seem to be justified.

**Minutes** – The Minutes for the Advisory Committee Meeting of March 04, 2009 were reviewed.

Motion by Gary Whitehouse to approve the Minutes of the meeting of March 04, 2009 as submitted. Seconded by Brian Walton.

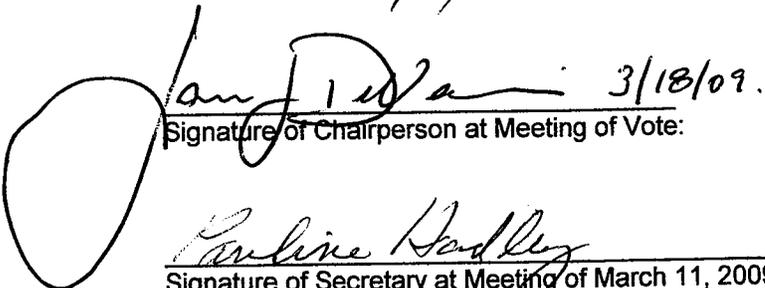
**Vote: 10-0-1**

Motion to adjourn by Lauren Bitar. Seconded by Bob Garber.

**Vote: 7-0-0** Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Minutes Approved by Vote of the Advisory Committee.

Date of Meeting 3/18/09 Vote: 10-0-0

  
Signature of Chairperson at Meeting of Vote:

  
Signature of Secretary at Meeting of March 11, 2009