

**ADVISORY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
April 2, 2016**

A meeting of the Advisory & Finance Committee was held on Saturday, April 2, 2016. The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Moody at 7:30AM and was conducted in the Art Room at the Plymouth North High School, 41 Obery Street, Plymouth, Massachusetts.

PRESENT **Fourteen members of the committee were present:**
Kevin Canty, Betty Cavacco, Robert Cote, Harry Helm, Shelagh Joyce, Ethan Kusmin, Mike Lincoln, Marcus McGraw, Patricia McPherson, Christopher Merrill, John Moody, Patrick O’Brien, Harry Salerno, Marc Sirrico

ABSENT **One member of the committee was absent:**
Scott Stephenson

AGENDA ITEMS

➤ **ATM Article 10 – Environmental Affairs Fund**

John Mahoney, Selectman, shared that PILOT agreements are a finite revenue stream. It is not wise financially to place 100% of the revenue from these agreements into the General Fund because when they expire in 20 years that revenue disappears and there is a void in the General Fund. This article proposes that 75% of the PILOT agreement revenue be placed in an Environmental Affairs Fund which would provide much needed seed money for short and long term environmental planning. (The other 25% will stay in the General Fund). The Marine and Environmental Affairs Department has an excellent record of using a local match to leverage millions of dollars of grants. This would enable the Town to fund projects that are much needed that are currently going unfunded. We have to focus and fund more projects to protect our water resources, both fresh water and salt water. Mr. Mahoney apologized that he and David Gould did not get involved with presenting this article sooner to the Advisory & Finance Committee.

David Gould, Director of Marine & Environmental Affairs, then made a presentation.

Proposed use of funds include:

- Water quality assessments – watershed, streams, pond, harbor
- Coastal infrastructure – seawalls, beach nourishment (2014 State Report: 45 structures in Plymouth = \$35 million, D&F ratings = \$14 million).
- Stormwater improvements (NPDES)
- Restoration projects

Regulatory Requirements:

- EPA NPDES Stormwater – monitor and improve water quality impacts from local stormwater systems (1,446 outfalls sample two times per year)
- WWTF Nutrient Management Plan – Eel River Watershed
- Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDLs) for 303d listed impaired waterways – White Island Pond, Billington Sea, Harbor, Agawam River, Ellisville Harbor, Russell Mill Pond.

Project Examples:

- Eel River Headwaters, Town Brook, T-Wharf, Wellingsley Brook, PLB cobble nourishment
- Projects include bridges, culverts, stormwater and water and sewer utilities otherwise paid for by local funds as capital projects

Leveraging of Funds:

- \$14 million in 15 years
- Maximizing local funds with private, state and federal dollars
- Example: \$260,000 for treatment of White Island Pond
- \$10,000 in local funds leveraged \$68,854

Upcoming Projects:

- PLB Seawall/Revetment
- WHB Nourishment/Stormwater
- Eel River land acquisition (nutrient reduction)
- PLB ACOE Dike/Beach Nourishment
- Ellisville Harbor Inlet/Stormwater
- Great Herring Pond Stormwater
- Harbor Dredging
- Harbor Bulkhead work

John Mahoney, David Gould and Lynne Barrett, Director of Finance, all answered questions.

Questions:

- What is the difference between an A and a D&F rating? (H Helm) It is an engineering rating where A does not need immediate work and D&F indicates failing and needs immediate work.
- Does the WHB nourishment plan include work on the bridge? (B Cavacco) The bridge is included in the Mass DOT Taylor Ave Improvement project. The WHB Nourishment project is maintaining the dune.
- Will the Environmental Affairs Fund be accumulated into an interest or money market account? (C Merrill) Yes.
- Will it take 2 years for this new Fund to be approved by the State? (C Merrill) Town Meeting authorizes the intent, funds are then set aside. If it does not get approved by the state the funds are returned to the General Fund.
- Was a sunset clause added to the article? (C Merrill) No, only the ratio of 100 to 75/25 had been changed. Each PILOT expires after 20 years and new ones may or may not come on. We will have a hole in our general fund budget if we rely on these funds and then they expire. Small earmarks would work wonders.

- Discussion at the caucuses included that this is unpredictable. There was discomfort with the unknown and not having a ceiling of a set amount. What if the numbers spiral and there is too much money generated from PILOTS into this fund? (E Kusmin) There are half a dozen solar array projects in que with the Planning Board but not all of those are going to be PILOT agreements. We have authorized five to date and only two are in place. The incentives are not as good as they used to be. This will not grow exponentially.
- \$14 million is needed for structures alone. You can not move mountains with pebbles. (J Moody)
- What is the mechanism for change or undoing if they need arises? (M Sirrico) It will have to go back to Town Meeting.
- How come you are using this fund instead of the regular method of going on the Capital Project request? (M Sirrico) Items like seawalls remain on the list for many years but never get through the Capital Improvements Committee with a high enough ranking to be funded.
- What is the rush, why not wait until Fall since it can not be filed with the State until January? (P O'Brien) Our infrastructure has been abused and ignored for 15 years, we need to set aside these funds starting at the beginning of the fiscal year July 1.
- Is the Act language being re-written? Does it still include land acquisitions which seems like a duplication of CPC? (S Joyce) That language is still in there.

Mr. Williams spoke about the fact that there are 365 ponds and lakes in Plymouth and that there are a lot of projects needed. Watershed should be the first priority.

Betty Cavacco made a motion to reconsider ATM Article 10. Kevin Canty, second.

Discussion:

- I will not support this article. (C Merrill)
- I will not support this article, it is very rushed and is too important of an issue. (H Helm)
- This is just the vote for reconsideration, not the vote for the article itself. (M Lincoln)
- I can not support it, it should wait until the Fall. (P O'Brien)
- I support this, we are already in trouble for not earmarking funds from the Entergy PILOT. (B Cavacco)

The motion fails (5-8-0). Betty Cavacco, Marc Sirrico, Patricia McPherson, Robert Cote, Kevin Canty, in favor.

Patricia McPherson made a motion to recess to attend Town Meeting and reconvene at the end of Town Meeting. Harry Salerno, second. The motion passed unanimously (13-0-0).

The Advisory & Finance Committee then attended Town Meeting. Town Meeting adjourned Saturday afternoon at 3:14 until Monday, April 4 at 7PM. A Declaration of Recess and Continuance was issued for Monday's meeting due to a snow storm. Meeting continued to Tuesday April 5 and was called back to order at 7PM. When Town Meeting adjourned, Advisory & Finance reconvened as a committee. Betty Cavacco, Chris Merrill, Ethan Kusmin, Harry Salerno, John Moody, Kevin Canty, Marc Sirrico, Mike Lincoln, Patty McPherson, Robert Cote, Scott Stephenson, and Shelagh Joyce were in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

Harry Salerno moved for adjournment. Marc Sirrico, second.

The motion for adjournment carries unanimously (11-0-0).

The meeting adjourned Tuesday, April 5 2016 at 9:44PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kere Gillette