

ADVISORY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

November 16, 2016

A meeting of the Advisory & Finance Committee was held on Wednesday, November 16, 2016. The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Moody at 7:00PM and was conducted in the Mayflower II Meeting Room at the Plymouth Town Hall, 11 Lincoln Street, Plymouth, Massachusetts.

PRESENT **12 members of the committee were present:**

Kevin Canty, Robert Cote, Judith Fitzgerald, Harry Helm, Ethan Kusmin, Mike Lincoln, Peter Mador, Christopher Merrill, John Moody, Patrick O'Brien, Sheila Sheridan, Scott Stephenson

ABSENT **3 members of the committee were absent:**

Betty Cavacco, Harry Salerno, Marc Sirrico

Public Comment

Dean Rizzo introduced Troop 47 who were attending this meeting and then the ZBA meeting next door to learn about local government structure to earn their citizenship and the community badge.

Agenda Items

➤ **Fall Town Meeting Wrap Up**

There was discussion about Town Meeting which included: all of the late withdrawals after the committee spent hours hearing the articles, the wish that articles be in proper form before we take the time to hear them, to improve communication particularly to those that may be on the opposing side of an article to invite them and insist strongly that they appear, the Rules Committee can look at mechanisms to issue invitations, that we can tighten up meetings and not drift from discussion back into questions, that the committee provides general guidelines to petitioners to help them better prepare their articles and their presentations, that the committee do their homework before meetings by reading the material and reaching out to petitioners or department heads with questions in the days before the meeting, that the meetings are too long and we need to be more conscious of our comments, to not repeat what another member has already said only comment if you have something to add, that there is hope the town will pursue a roads repair program and look into using a portion of the excise tax to fund the program, that the town really needs to look seriously at alternative forms of revenue, that the town held an auction today of quite a few tax title properties and generated about \$800,000 and put those lots back on the tax rolls.

➤ **FY2018 Budget Process & Spring Annual Town Meeting**

Budget Sub-Committee Chairs can reach out to Department Heads and ask if they are rolling out any special programs in FY18 and get the dialogue started. Our budget review schedule is too compressed and it would be nice to receive the budget books sooner. Chairs will receive reports of the past couple of years, a template for their FY18 reports and Sheila Sheridan will work on a template for presentations. Chairs must send Kere meeting notices so she can post them online to meet Open Meeting Law requirements, preferably a week in advance but the law requires at least 48 hours notice. The School Committee budget presentation is December 5th and will continue on the 6th and 7th if needed. Town Meeting will be Saturday, April 1 2017.

Old / New / Other Business

Kevin Canty reported that the League of Women Voters held a forum about protecting the town's aquifer. The forum was informative and well attended. He said it was reassuring to see the state and local coordination working to protect the aquifer proactively rather than reactively.

ADJOURNMENT **Patrick O'Brien made a motion to adjourn. Harry Helm, second.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kere Gillette