

**ADVISORY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
of  
February 5, 2014**

A meeting of the Advisory & Finance Committee was held on Wednesday, February 5, 2014. The meeting was called to order by Chairman, John Moody at 7:00 p.m. and was conducted at the Plymouth Town Hall, in the Mayflower II Meeting Room, 11 Lincoln Street, Plymouth, Massachusetts.

**PRESENT**

**Nine members of the Committee were present:**

John Moody, Michael Hanlon, Linda Benezra, Robert Morgan, Michael Hourahan, Marc Sirrico, Christopher Merrill, Nancy McSpadden, and Michael Duffley

**ABSENT**

**Four members of the Committee were absent:**

Harry Salerno, Charles Stevens, Cornelius Bakker, and Richard Gladdys

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**ATM Article 3 – Establish/Reauthorize Revolving Funds, G.L. c.44, §53E ½**

Lynne Barrett, Director of Finance presented ATM Article 3 to Establish or Reauthorize Revolving Funds in accordance with G.L. c.44, §53E ½.

Ms. Barrett said all revolving funds recommended to town meeting total \$2,071,961. She explained Chapter 44, Section 53 E ½ allows a Town to annually authorize one or more revolving funds by departments that are accounted for separately from all other monies. A revolving fund is credited with the departmental receipts received in connection with the programs supported by such fund. Expenditures may be made from such funds without appropriation subject to the following provisions:

1. Expenditures shall not be made or liabilities incurred in excess of the amount authorized by town meeting, except for during the fiscal year with the approval of both the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee.
2. Expenditures shall not be made in excess of the balance in such fund.
3. Interest earned on all revolving funds remains in the general fund.
4. No such revolving fund may be established if the aggregate limit of all revolving funds exceeds 10% of the amount raised by taxation of the most recent fiscal year.

Fiscal 2014 Estimated Tax Levy	\$130,159,929
10% Limit	\$ 13,015,993
5. No revolving fund shall be for the purpose of full time salaries unless the appropriate fringe benefits are charged.
6. No one department is authorized to spend more than 1% of the amount raised by taxation of the most recent fiscal year in all of their revolving funds.

1% Limit	\$ 1,301,599
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In my review, all revolving funds recommended for Fiscal 2015 in Article 3, of the April Annual Town Meeting, meet the statute requirements.

The following departments have requested new revolving funds or changes in their authorized spending limits:

*Marine & Environmental Affairs – Plymouth Beach– increase from \$237,000 to \$239,300*

*Marine & Environmental Affairs – State Boat Ramp – increase from \$55,000 to \$63,000*

*Marine & Environmental Affairs - Conservation Land - decrease \$40,000 to \$2,500*

*DPW – Cemetery Repair & Beautification – increase from \$10,000 to \$12,000*

*DPW-Recreation – Memorial Hall - decrease from \$117,000 to \$110,000*

*DPW – Solid Waste Enterprise Compost Bins – increase from \$3,600 to \$5,160*

*DPW-Recreation – Hedges Pond Recreation Area - increase from \$30,000 to \$35,000*

*School Department – Custodial Details – New \$100,000*

*Community Preservation Act – 1820 Court House Revolving Fund-New-\$20,000 (Refer to Article 16 B of the 2014 ATM).*

In addition, as required by the statute, Ms. Barrett provided a report of all revolving fund activity which shows the total amount of receipts, expenditures, and balances for each revolving fund for the prior fiscal year and the current fiscal year through December 31, 2013.

**Linda Benezra moved to approve as presented.**

**Christopher Merrill, second.**

**Discussion:**

Michael Hanlon asked the committee to consider using the budget form which he previously provided. Mr. Merrill said the form would provide transparency. Ms. Benezra was in agreement.

Lynne Barrett said the report submitted is in accordance with the statute however she said she would add a column showing the spending authorization requested.

**The motion carries unanimously.**

**ATM Article 8 - Departmental Equipment Requests**

Lynne Barrett, Director of Finance presented ATM Article 8 - Departmental Equipment Requests. Article 8 includes all departmental equipment, furnishings, and repairs that do not fall within CIC guidelines and parameters. These requests totaled \$885,261 and were reviewed with Department & Division Heads during the budget process back in December. The Town Manager is recommending \$629,828 of these requests.

Ms. Barrett indicated the funding source for these items would be \$6,300 from Sewer Enterprise Retained Earnings, \$34,500 from Waterways fund, and \$17,046 from Cemetery Perpetual care and \$571,982 from General Fund free cash.

**Linda Benezra moved to approve as presented for \$629,828.  
Michael Hourahan, second.**

**Discussion:**

Michael Hanlon indicated the DPW and Public Safety items were reviewed at sub-committee meetings and approved.

**The motion carries unanimously.**

**ATM Article 35 - Enact a bylaw prohibiting display of non-domesticated animals. Petitioned: Kati Carloni, et al**

Kati Carloni petitioner spoke briefly regarding her request to enact a bylaw prohibiting the displaying of non-domesticated animals. Lorraine Nicoterra Vice President of the South Shore Humane Society spoke regarding the inhumane treatment of circus animals.

Michael Duffley inquired about the location of circuses in Plymouth. Ms. Nicoterra said the circus comes to the Plymouth Airport on an annual basis.

Robert Morgan inquired if this would prevent a zoo from being established in town. Ms. Nicoterra said if the zoo was established for educational purposes it would be allowed.

Linda Benezra inquired if the Board of Health had any authority and if there were any State Regulations.

Michael Duffley indicated that he would like to see the word "traveling" animals added as well as language that does not prohibit zoos from being established.

Janet Young town meeting member spoke about the bylaw committee and suggested the Committee contact the Board of Selectmen and have the petitioner go through the town's bylaw process.

John Moody suggested the petitioner contact the town manger and find out about working with the bylaw review committee and get help in crafting a bylaw.

**Linda Benezra moved to postpone February 26, 2014.  
Christopher Merrill, second. The motion carries unanimously.**

**ATM Article 36 –Allocate funding for Staffing and Enforcement at Morton Park, Petitioned: Gilbert H. Freeman, et al**

The Petitioner, Gilbert Freeman, spoke regarding the request for staffing and enforcement at Morton Park.

*ARTICLE 36: A petition to the Board of Selectmen of Plymouth, Massachusetts*

*Whereas Morton Park is a Town treasure that must be preserved and properly cared for, and we as friends of Morton park consider ourselves to be the voluntary “stewards” of the park, and*

*Where as great strides have been taken by the Town in recent years to effect preservation and protection of the park, including implementation of orderly rules governing entry on July 4<sup>th</sup> and other days of heavy usage, and, more recently, installation of gates preventing vehicular entry into the back areas of the park along the shore of Billington Sea, thereby greatly reducing vandalism and the dumping of trash in that area, and*

*Whereas certain serious problems remain to be corrected in the activities of persons who utilize the park, including excessive trash in and around park trails and beach areas (including human excrement), loud music, use of alcohol, cooking on open fires and careless dumping of hot coals, which conditions prevail particularly between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends, and*

*Whereas the solution to these problems will require revisions in town bylaws and an increased enforcement presence, we*

*Therefore propose that for a two year trial period, the Selectmen implement the following steps at Morton Park, to be effective between Memorial Day and Labor Day Weekends:*

- 1. Allocate \$15,000 per season for two weekend police officers and one park ranger (with enforcement powers) to enforce closing hour, bans on alcohol, fires, and other existing park rules;*
- 2. Publicize new restrictions widely, to Plymouth residents and out-of-town guests well before next season starts, using social media and newspapers;*
- 3. At the end of the town year trial period, reassess the impact of these changes and continue them permanently if they have been effective.*

*We, the undersigned residents of Plymouth, respectfully request that the Board of Selectmen sponsor an article at the next Town Meeting for funding to support the initiatives listed above.*

*Funding requested should include appropriate staffing levels and signage.*

*BY PETITION: Gilbert H. Freeman, et al*

Christopher Merrill inquired about raising the fee for Morton Park. Directory of Parks & Forestry, Ted Bubbins, indicated the Board of Selectmen set the fees and added they would not want to raise fees so high that it discourages families from attending.

John Moody asked for clarification of “enforcement powers”. Mr. Bubbins said the park ranger would be required to have a gun and badge.

Janet Young spoke as a member of the Friends of the Morton Park Committee she said she moved to Plymouth 26 years ago and said it was the most beautiful park and brought her children to swimming lessons. She said she has been at the Park on July 4<sup>th</sup> and was horrified at what she saw.

Michael Hanlon asked if the \$15,000 request could be funded through the Recreation Revolving Fund. Mr. Bubbins indicated that he could not answer the question that Mr. DeBlasio would need to provide the answers.

**Robert Morgan moved to approve as presented.**

**Nancy McSpadden, second.**

**Discussion:**

Michael Hanlon suggested postponing the article until the Board of Selectmen has had the opportunity to review the article.

**Michael Hanlon moved to postpone until February 12 to allow the Selectmen to hear the article. Michael Duffley, second.**

**Discussion:**

Ms. Benezra said she doesn't support postponing and said we are being asked the merits about providing security at the park.

Mr. Morgan said the need is apparent and said the committee could make a recommendation with out the Selectmen weighing in.

**The motion to postpone fails (2-6-0). Michael Hanlon and Michael Duffley voting in favor.**

**The main motion carries unanimously.**

**Old/New/Other Business**

Ms. Benezra inquired about the precinct caucus meeting schedules. Mr. Moody said he would be at the COEC meeting of February 20.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- **December 18, 2013**  
Linda Benezra moved to approve as amended.  
Michael Hanlon, second. The motion carries unanimously.
  
- **January 15, 2014**  
Michael Hanlon moved to approve as presented.  
Linda Benezra, second. The motion carries unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Nancy McSpadden moved for adjournment.  
Linda Benezra, second. The motion for adjournment carries unanimously.  
The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela L. Borgatti