

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
February 1, 2010- Monday

Present: Kenneth DiFazio, Chairperson
Patrick O'Connor
Arthur Mathews
Michael Molisse
Michael Smart

Also Present: James Wilson, CFO
George Lane, Town Solicitor
Maureen Duffy, Town Auditor
James Clarke, Director, Planning and Development
Bob Luongo, Planning Department

Recording Secretary: Mary Briggs

Chairman Kenneth DiFazio called the Budget/Management Committee meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Discussion on Charter Submission of School Department Budget to the Town Council

Chairman DiFazio deferred to Councilor Mathews, who brought the matter to the committee's attention. Councilor Mathews noted he and Councilor Smart serve as delegates on the Charter Review Committee. At their last meeting, a discussion of Article 6, submission of the town budget, took place. The Mayor currently has 90 days prior to the start of the fiscal year to submit a proposed operating budget. Both School Committee and the Town Council representatives requested that this deadline be reduced to 60 days prior to submission. The committee could then propose its recommendation to the Charter Committee before its next meeting. It will give the School Committee an additional two weeks in crafting its budget. Councilor Mathews noted that the School Committee had several proposed budgets last year, but they were required to submit prior to knowing what the Governor's budget entailed. The extra few weeks will give the School Committee additional time and information to formulate their budget.

Chairman DiFazio asked Mr. Wilson if the deadline was changed to give the school department 75 days, would they then have the Governor's budget to work with? Mr. Wilson responded affirmatively. By constitution, the Governor's budget does not come out until the end of January. Based upon the current timeframe, the School Committee must have a working document by the first or second week of January. The additional time will allow the School Committee a chance to work with a factual budget.

Councilor O'Connor noted that this has been a repetitive concern of the Superintendent;

timeframe in the Charter is not conducive with that of the state. He supports this.

Chairman DiFazio agreed; he did not see where this would be disadvantageous to the Budget/Management Committee.

The consensus of the committee is to agree with a recommendation by the Charter Committee for an extension to the deadline.

09 111- External Audit Proposals Fiscal Years 2010 through 2014

Ms. Duffy noted that the town is currently in its 7th year with O'Connor & Drew as external auditors, and last summer she was directed to send out for proposals from new firms, which is not unusual.

Ms. Duffy noted that the committee first met on 11/9/09, at which time she recommended the firm Malloy, Lynch & Bienvenue. She was asked to prepare an addendum to address any further cost savings measures offered by all of the firms.

At the November 23, 2009 Budget/Management meeting, Ms. Duffy reported that after rereading the proposal from Malloy, Lynch & Bienvenue, they have budgeted hours to address areas of cost savings. She highlighted a few statements from their proposal in a detailed email to Councilor O'Connor and provided the committee with copies. This item was tabled at the meeting due to Councilor O'Connor's absence.

Ms. Duffy reported that her recommendation stands with the firm of Malloy, Lynch & Bienvenue of Norwell, Massachusetts. The firm meets the requirements for financial reporting, and additionally offers to address efficiency and cost savings within the Town's management. She noted one remaining issue for consideration is the length of the contract. Quotes received were for both 3 and 5-year contracts.

Councilor O'Connor asked if any of the other proposals had received any addendum to the proposal. Ms. Duffy responded that an addendum was not sent out. The proposal from Malloy, Lynch & Bienvenue contained cost-saving language, and no further action was requested by the committee at its November 23, 2009 meeting.

Councilor O'Connor noted that his original understanding was that an addendum was to be drafted and sent to all respondents, asking for additional services that could be provided outside of the scope of the audit. He was also under the impression that they would receive the responses to the addendum at this meeting. He would still like to see if there are additional services that can be provided by the other firms.

Ms. Duffy noted the issue was tabled at the November 23, 2009 meeting. Chairman DiFazio requested that the addendum go out within the week, with the intent to consider in mid-March.

09 146-Reserve Fund Transfer-Extraordinary Repair of Boiler Equipment

Mr. Wilson requested on behalf of the Mayor, a Reserve Fund transfer in the amount of \$3,986 for the extraordinary repair of the hydrotherm block of the boiler at town hall. The balance in the Reserve Fund prior to this measure is \$503,219. The scope of proposed work has been provided to the committee.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to recommend favorable action to the full Town Council on item 09 146 and was seconded by Councilor Molisse.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

09 147-Reserve Fund Transfer-Water Department

Mr. Wilson requested on behalf of the Mayor, an intra-governmental transfer. The town is building a new water treatment plant. Half of the debt service is through the state and DEP. The schedule for the debt service was received mid-January. Itemization of the costs, including administrative are \$41,399.05. Because it is a Water Enterprise Fund expense, the money will go from the Water Enterprise Fund into the town's Debt Service and paid as a general obligation of the town.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to recommend favorable action to the full Town Council on item 09 147 and was seconded by Councilor Molisse.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

10 002-Appointment to the Board of Elder Services-Steve Manupelli

Steve Manupelli introduced himself to the committee and expressed his interest in serving. Steve noted he is a lifelong resident, former town meeting member, and active in Weymouth Youth Soccer. He has volunteered at the Whipple Center.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to recommend favorable action to the full Town Council on item 10 002 and was seconded by Councilor Molisse.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

10 003-Appointment to the Waterfront Committee-Dan Keefe

Dan Keefe introduced himself to the committee and expressed his interest in serving. He is a 30-year resident and boat owner. As an active waterfront user, he would like to offer his service to the town.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to recommend favorable action to the full Town Council on item 10 003 and was seconded by Councilor Molisse.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

10 004-Appointment to the Veterans' Council-Francine Nesson

Francine Nesson was not in attendance. Mayor Kay noted her office has been unsuccessful in contacting her this week. Chairman DiFazio read her application into the record.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to recommend favorable action to the full

Town Council on item 10 004 and was seconded by Councilor Molisse.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

10 005-Appointment to the Community Preservation Committee-Donna O’Sullivan

Donna O’Sullivan introduced herself to the committee and expressed her interest in serving. She was born in Weymouth and recently moved back. During her residency in Braintree, she was active in that town’s Community Preservation Committee, serving as chair of the committee for several years and would like to continue her service for Weymouth. Chairman DiFazio noted the measure was introduced as an appointment to the Community Preservation Commission and will need to be voted as amended to read Community Preservation Committee.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O’Connor to recommend favorable action to the full Town Council on item 09 005, as amended, and was seconded by Councilor Molisse.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

10 006-Appointment to the Community Events Committee-Fran Xerokostas

Fran Xerokostas introduced herself to the committee and expressed her interest in serving. She owns a business, Olympic Pizza, in Columbian Square and has actively participated in neighborhood civic organizations in the past.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O’Connor to recommend favorable action to the full Town Council on item 10 006 and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. Councilor Molisse noted Ms. Zerokostas’ active participation in the town’s Christmas events in Columbian Square. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

10 007-Community Preservation Committee-Whitman’s Pond Preservation for Funding on Conservation Restriction for Open Space Land Purchase on Woodbine Road

Chairman DiFazio noted that this measure is scheduled for Public Hearing on February 16, 2009.

James Clarke and Bob Luongo of the Planning Department presented this measure. Mr. Luongo presented the restrictions document in draft form. In December 2007 the town purchased with Community Preservation funds, two pieces of property located on Woodbine Road; one piece on the mainland (71,000 sq.ft.) and an island (42,000 sq.ft.) in Whitman’s Pond. When Community Preservation funds are used to purchase land the state requires the town place conservation restrictions on that property, which governs what uses are permitted on the property and which are prohibited. The restrictions, by state mandate, are required to be enforced by an entity other than the town. A land trust will need to be engaged to enforce the restrictions. Copies of the draft document have been provided to the committee and Mr. Clarke reviewed the permitted and prohibited uses. At the request of the chairman, he condensed the allowed uses. It will mainly allow for passive recreational uses, within the budgetary constraints of the town, but allow for routine maintenance. Given the current economic state, it will remain mainly in its current state for the foreseeable future.

Mr. Clarke noted that any work done within permitted uses will be noted in the budgetary process and in concert with the Whitman's Pond Association.

Mr. Luongo noted that the Town Council must vote to adopt the restrictions, and approve the funds for the enforcement by the land trust. At the suggestion of the CPS, the administration approached the Weymouth/Braintree Regional Recreation Conservation District, which is also the Pond Meadow Park Association to solicit their oversight. \$4,000 would be a one-time payment for the enforcement of the restrictions, with some assistance in surveying. Councilor Mathews noted that the CPC spent a lot of time considering the restrictions. He noted several neighbors to the land purchased took exception to two items in the allowable uses in the restrictions- the building of a boat ramp and the provision for five parking spaces. He does not support the document as written because of their concerns.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to table item 10 007 and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. Councilor Mathews recommended not tabling but taking no action until after the Public Hearing. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

10 008-Community Preservation Committee –Preservation of Wall and Gates at Veteran's Memorial Field

Jim Clarke requested, on behalf of the Community Preservation Committee, \$271,000 for Phase I of the repair of Veteran's Memorial Field, the wall and gate. Handouts were provided to the committee indicating the work which has been completed and the architectural review by Raymond & Associates inclusive of its recommendations. The first thing the committee did was to determine that it met qualifications for funding as a Historical Preservation project. Scope of Phase I includes the repair of the 61 brick piers along the wall, the repair of the iron picket fence and the concrete cap. The scope of the work is proposed in three phases; masonry repair, iron work and concrete cap. Cost estimates have been prepared phased out over 3 years (\$220,000-in FY 2010; \$226,000-in FY2011 and \$325,000-in FY2012) with an add/alternate on the last amount for \$50,000 for the replacement of the piers replaced in a previous project.

Work will have no impact on any future use of the field area. Fill and loam repairs have been completed. The gate location will not change.

Chairman DiFazio questioned why the funding source will be the Reserve Fund rather than the Historic Preservation Fund category of the CPC budget. Mr. Clarke responded that the Historic Preservation category has been allocated to the exterior repairs of the Fogg Library Building.

Councilor O'Connor noted his concern that there may not be sufficient funds to complete the process once it's begun. He does not want this project going forward to look like Legion Field under the previous administration. Mr. Clarke noted that the completion of each respective phase makes a visual difference. The brick piers are the focal point and will be the most visual of improvements. Mayor Kay noted that the beginning cleaning of

the field has been supported by the neighbors and town, and by going forward, it will aid in fundraising efforts as well.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to recommend favorable action to the full Town Council on item 10 008, pending the outcome of the Public Hearing, and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. Vote carried 3/1.

At 7:28 PM, there being no further business, Councilor O'Connor made a MOTION to ADJOURN the meeting and was seconded by Councilor Harrington. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Briggs as Recording Secretary

Approved by Chairman Ken DiFazio