

***Town Council Budget/Management Committee
November 12, 2013
Town Council Chambers***

Present: Chairman Kenneth DiFazio
Councilor Arthur Mathews
Councilor Michael Molisse
Councilor Patrick O'Connor
Councilor Michael Smart

Also Present: Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
Kenan Connell, Proposed Director of Department of Public Works
Robert O'Connor, Interim Director of Department of Public Works

Recording Secretary: Diane T. Hachey

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

13 125-Appointment as Director of Public Works-Kenan J. Connell

Mr. Connell was present and Chairman DiFazio noted that this measure was referred on September 23, 2013. Robert O'Connor introduced Mr. Connell to the committee, on behalf of Mayor Kay. Mr. Connell thanked Mr. O'Connor for his support in the transition and he noted that he is a Marshfield resident who is married with two children. He has more than 26 years of experience in the field. He previously held the position of DPW superintendent for the town of Abington-with 26 employees. Prior to that assignment he was operations foreman for the town of Marshfield.

Councilor Mathews called attention to 50-75% of Councilor calls are related to DPW issues and asked that Mr. Connell is cognizant of this, and attributed it to our aging infrastructure-which we are attempting to handle with host community agreement funds.

Councilor O'Connor arrives here at 7:39 PM.

Mr. Connell noted that he is used to doing more with less and assured the committee that he will keep Councilor Mathews comments in the forefront.

Councilor Smart welcomed Mr. Connell and stated the importance of issuing utility work/road permits-- roads must be put back to the same condition following construction or road openings. The Council has established an ordinance to this effect and he asks to please put pressure on contractors and to maintain open communication with the Council.

Mr. Connell said he has a reputation for chasing these types of issues and ensured the committee that he will continue here.

Councilor DiFazio stated that in his district this year there have been numerous issues during construction, and he sent a letter to the Mayor, addressing his constituent concerns. Monitoring of construction during a project is just as important as how the job is left upon completion. He asked Mr. O'Connor the extent of his involvement in the selection process and Mr. O'Connor confirmed that 20 applications were received, 10 interviewed and the top 3 were recommended to the Mayor.

Councilor DiFazio asked Mr. Connell if he had reviewed the budget in addition to being aware of the suggested combining of DPW and school maintenance. He confirmed that he had reviewed the budget and the Mayor had spoken with him regarding the combining of functions.

Mr. Connell noted many similarities between Weymouth, Abington and Marshfield's budgets, mostly to Marshfield.

Councilor Molisse reiterated that 75% of calls received are DPW related and asked what visions Mr. Connell has. Mr. Connell's goal is for continuity of services and becoming familiar with the operations of the DPW.

Councilor O'Connor believes Mr. Connell's resume speaks for itself and noted the challenges before him. He further stated that he is an advocate of centralizing the schools and town functions, and extended his appreciation to Mr. O'Connor for his efforts during the transition.

Councilor Smart noted that District 6 has a leaf collection site (Randolph and Hollis) that needs attention due to odor issues.

Councilor Mathews called attention to all of the money deposited into the town's infrastructure and encourages Mr. Connell to continue in these efforts and to invest money accordingly.

Councilor O'Connor motioned for favorable action to the Town Council on measure 13 125, motion seconded by Councilor Molisse and voted unanimously.

Councilor Mathews noted that this measure will be discussed under "Reports of Committee" at the Town Council Meeting later in the evening.

Mayor Kay's New Automated Trash Recycle Program

Councilor DiFazio noted that this issue was referred on September 3, 2013 and this is the third meeting at which time it has been addressed. He brought complaints to light at other meetings and many issues have since been rectified. He sent a reminder to all Councilors to forward any comments or complaints which remain outstanding, and he has heard nothing.

Mr. O'Connor cited that many concerns regarding pick up on dead end streets have been resolved as he spoke to EZ Disposal. To date 125 requests for extra trash barrels and 100 requests for smaller carts to be swapped out, have been received and taken care of.

Councilor Mathews stated that leaf pick up remains an issue as he has seen trucks picking up as late as 9 PM-- which is too late and also noted that constituents are complaining that leaf pickup isn't being done on the same day as trash pickup and asked that they discuss with the company.

Councilor Smart asked if they are still considering issuance of additional recycling barrels at no charge to encourage recycling. Mr. O'Connor said that the Mayor is still considering.

Councilor Molisse asked for the financials regarding the new program, namely the cost to the town for the barrels. Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Connell agreed to obtain this figure.

With no further business to attend to, Councilor O'Connor motioned to adjourn at 7:05 PM-- motion seconded by Councilor Molisse and voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by: Diane T. Hachey as Recording Secretary

Approved by: Chairman Kenneth DiFazio