

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
October 15, 2012, Monday**

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

Also Present: Mayor Susan Kay
William McKinney, Chief Financial Officer
Michael Gallagher, Director of Administrative and
Community Services
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
James Clarke, Director of Planning & Commun. Dev.
Jeff Bina, DPW Director
Jane Hackett, Councilor
Edmund Harrington, Councilor
Thomas J. Lacey, Councilor
Dr. Kenneth Salim, Supt. of Schools
Garry Pelletier, Weymouth School Dept.
Sean Guilfoyle, Weymouth School Committee

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chairman DiFazio called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

12 110-General Government Supplemental FY13 Appropriation

Mayor Kay and CFO McKinney presented the measure and request that the town of Weymouth raise and appropriate the sum of \$135,652,536 which is \$533,265 greater than the amount of the annual appropriation of \$135,119,271 voted by Council on June 18, 2012 in measure 12-042. This is to provide for all the expenses for the maintenance and operation of the town's several departments and activities for fiscal year 2013 by re-appropriating the following line items in the following amounts:

REVENUE				
Line item	Description	Original Appropriation	New Appropriation	Variance
11210430.425209	Base Revenue	\$0	\$100,000	\$ 100,000
11450410.460019	Local Aid/Lottery	\$6,842,039	\$7,375,304	\$ 533,265
11450410.482010	Interest Income	\$160,000	\$110,000	\$ (50,000)
13600440.441014	Building	\$500,000	\$450,000	\$ (50,000)

		Permits			Total	\$ 533,265
EXPENSES						
Category	Line item	Description	Original Appropriation	Requested Amount	Increase	
School Dept			\$ 56,790,809.19	\$ 56,972,809.19	\$187,000	
Library	16993825.541110	Book/Mater	\$ 55,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 40,000	
	16993815.530209	Computer	\$ 15,000	\$ 27,265	\$ 12,265	
Town Council	11114110.512100	Rec Secrty	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$ 2,000	
Town Clerk	11614117.510001	Salaries	\$165,072.17	\$171,072.17	\$ 6,000	
	11614417.530212	Advertise	\$ 3,500	\$ 5,500	\$ 2,000	
Public Works	14104190.510001	Salaries	\$ 448,999.84	\$ 518,999.84	\$ 70,000	
Planning	11754160.510001	Salaries	\$ 308,589.42	\$ 333,589.42	\$ 25,000	
Veterans	16997995.519900	Benefits	\$ 420,000	\$ 445,000	\$ 25,000	
Pension/Bene	11945555.517101	Cont/Retire	\$ 8,454,773	\$ 8,468,773	\$ 14,000	
	11945840.517202	Health Ins	\$ 19,000,000	\$ 19,150,000	\$150,000	
				Total	\$ 533,265	

Furthermore, that the sum of \$50,000 is appropriated from the Waterways Fund to meet some of the costs of the Harbormaster’s Program, a restatement of measure 12-042.

Richard Swanson, Town Auditor, had presented a list of questions, which follows. Each of the questions was addressed by the appropriate department head.

AUDITORS’ QUESTIONS ON MEASURE 12110
GENERAL GOVERNMENT SUPPLEMENTAL FY13 APPROPRIATION

REVENUE

How was the \$100,000 in base revenue derived? Does this represent billings for town government services to Southfield, excluding water & sewer? In Fy12 Southfield was billed approximately \$75,000 for services, excluding water & sewer. Therefore, the administration projects a 33% increase in billings---correct? Are billings included from the School department for Southfield students?

What is the basis for decreasing interest income by \$50,000?

Why is building permit revenue being decreased by \$50,000?

Mr. McKinney reviewed these questions and provided answers for each. The base revenue includes monies received already this year and projections anticipated from agreements signed for police and fire services. No allowance is made for students from Southfield attending Weymouth public schools; no agreement has been reached yet. Interest income is down because interest rates are down. Building permit revenue is based on actual collections and fewer applications.

Councilor Hackett thanked the administration for incorporating base revenues into revenue projections for next year that will create correct budgeting structure for revenues it is receiving from Tri-Town. Mayor Kay responded that she was initially hesitant to budget, but now that the town is in a good cycle, she believes \$100,000 is conservative enough.

EXPENDITURES

SCHOOLS---Kindly provide backup on what the \$187,000 will fund for the School Department?

School Committee Chairman Sean Guilfoyle introduced the new school superintendent, Dr. Kenneth Salim to the committee. The department prioritized its needs based on a one- time funding source and not sustainable, based on recommendations from the principals. Funds will meet under-resourced or critical needs and impact to student results. School Committee approved this based on an ongoing, prioritized list, but this has not been reviewed in public hearing. Auditor Swanson was satisfied with the backup provided. Chairman DiFazio asked if the school department will meet its net school spending this year. CFO McKinney responded that it will exceed it by \$400,000.

Councilor Smart asked if the school administration will consider reducing the athletic fee further to give families relief. Mr. Guilfoyle noted that it has not been planned since the department will be replacing equipment and meeting safety requirements that have been instituted. The Athletic Director has indicated they need a rebuilding year in order to purchase uniforms. If the department continues to receive funding, fees will go down.

LIBRARY---- It is stated “The \$6,100 for a print/time management software package will take the time-consuming burden off of reference staff”. Will this then reduce some work hours for employees?

Director Rob McLean reported that the funds will be used to meet the minimum spending requirement to meet state accreditation. No changes in work hours are represented; this software will free up staff to meet other needs within the department.

What does the statement “With thin clients” mean?

Michael Gallagher reviewed the term. A thin lien is a dumb terminal working from a background server which will help the library by reducing servicing time and maintaining a secure computer environment by providing better services to patrons.

TOWN COUNCIL- Councilor Mathews reported the increase to the Town Council budget will meet the recording secretary costs. This is necessary due to additional meeting needs and has been fairly consistent in past years.

TOWN CLERK- Kathy Deree noted the addition to her department will fund the cost of increased salaries and advertising.

PUBLIC WORKS--Is the requested increase of \$70,000 in salaries to fund both an electrician and a superintendent of parks, grounds and open space? How many hours per week will each work? How many months in FY13 will this funding cover for these salaries? Are there any other funds in DPW salary line items that may be used for these positions?

Mayor Kay reported that the increase will fund half of the annual salary for each position. The superintendent is intended to coordinate the upkeep of town fields, and will be planning rather than reactionary. She is looking to reorganize the whole department. This will not be a crew chief position. Director Bina reported that the electrician will work at the new water treatment plant, and that there is no other funding in his department for these positions. Councilor Molisse asked if the positions will be funded in-house. They will initially be posted in-house. The salary is split 40/30 for the two positions.

PLANNING-Will the requested increase of \$25,000 fund a grant writer/economic developer for a full or part time position? How many months in Fy13 will this fund? Are other funds within Planning available to also fund this position? Will the individual be assisting all departments (including Schools)?

Mayor Kay responded that the position will pay for itself. Current staff does not have the time to research and apply for grants. The position will have oversight by the Planning Department and will not include grant-writing for the school department, which has its own grant researchers. The funding is for a full time position; this amount represents funding for 6 months. Jim Clarke confirmed there is no money available elsewhere in his budget that can fund this position.

VETERANS SERVICES-Director Joanne Parisi noted that the \$25,000 supplement will fund services to members returning from duty and also vouchers for members from other communities who seek affordable housing here.

Councilor Burke asked if the amount is sufficient. Ms. Parisi responded that there are many unknowns. Because the vouchers are used for affordable housing, it has created an influx from other communities; Weymouth has the housing inventory. Councilor Conlon noted many of the returning veterans are young and asked if the department has an outreach program. Ms. Parisi responded that the VA is proactive and provides its members with a comprehensive package upon their return, but a lot of it is provided word of mouth. Councilor Conlon also asked if the town maintains a list of veterans. Mayor Kay responded that the state provides the town with a list of who

Councilor Burke confirmed that the town is only allowed to use the list to contact the veteran specifically about benefits. They have established Twitter and Facebook updates as well.

PENSION/BENEFITS---Kindly provide some back-up to support the \$150,000 increase being requested for health insurance?

Mayor Kay reported that the information is provided by PARAC and is due to an increase in health insurance costs to employees who have changed coverage to include family plans.

Councilor Hackett noted concern that the funding in general government is largely recurring costs, except for the funding on the school side. CFO McKinney noted that the town is hoping to count on this local aid in future years. Mayor Kay noted she shares Councilor Hackett's concern.

A MOTION was made by Vice Chairman O'Connor to forward item 12 110-General Government Supplemental FY13 appropriation to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Molisse.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

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

Respectfully submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Kenneth DiFazio
Chairman Budget/Management Committee