

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
January 31, 2011 - Monday**

Present: Kenneth DiFazio, Chairperson
Patrick O'Connor, Vice Chairperson
Arthur Mathews, Council President
Michael Smart, Councilor

Also Present: Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
James Clarke, Director, Planning & Development
Walter Flynn, Chair, Community Preservation Committee
Matt Ferron, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

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

11 103- Reappropriation Fiscal Year 2010 SPED Tuition

Matt Ferron, Asst. Superintendent of Schools and Scott Bois were invited to the table. They reported that this measure is for the reappropriation of \$550,000 which was originally appropriated in the 02 Fund as an insurance measure for FY10 SPED Out of District Tuition. None of the funds have been expended, and the department is looking to reappropriate for the school department's general purpose. If it is not needed in FY11 for an emergency situation, the funds will supplement the loss of federal funds for FY12.

Councilor Mathews asked if moving the funds from the 02 to the general fund will reduce net school spending. Scott Bois noted it is the intent--it will not increase the general fund budget. Chairman DiFazio noted that the freeing up of a half million in the school department budget is likely to be scrutinized heavily in light of the recent pay raises.

Councilor O'Connor asked if it is anticipated that the \$550,000 will be needed. Matt Ferron responded that circuit breaker reimbursement is conservatively estimated at 40% and the funds will likely be needed. Chairman DiFazio asked that these funds if affirmatively voted by be itemized for budget review. There was a brief discussion of likelihood of late enrollment tuitions. Chairman DiFazio noted that a representative from the school department be on hand to answer questions at the Town Council Meeting.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 11 103 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

11 004- Community Preservation Committee-Abigail Adams House

James Clarke and Walter Flynn were invited to the table. Jim provided the committee with back up for the request and reviewed the presentation. The request is based on a recommendation from the Community Preservation Committee and approved by the Mayor. In the past, a conservation assessment was funded and has been completed. The society made several recommendations for various improvements. The society submitted a grant application for \$250,000 that includes physical repairs to the building and strategic plans and site improvements. The committee has voted to fund \$90,000; the repairs in Year One, first item - \$65,000- \$75,000 and heating system from Year Two, last item- \$10,000-\$15,000. Cathy Torrey and Judy Alukonis from the Abigail Adams Historical Society provided further information on the assessment and recommendations.

Chairman DiFazio asked if the committee can expect to see future requests based on the recommendations. Cathy Torrey noted there are limitations to what CPC can provide funding for; the shed renovations would

be restricted. There was a brief discussion concerning the need for installation of a minimal heating system in the building and its role in the preservation of the building and its artifacts. Cathy then reviewed some of the upcoming events planned by the society.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 11 004 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Smart. Councilor Molisse recused himself from the vote due to his membership on the Historical Society. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED 4-0, with one recusal.

11 005- Reappropriation Capital Projects

Scott Bois requested on behalf of the Mayor, the sum of \$435,303.14 be reappropriated to the Residual Account; Line Item 3416, from Fund 3119 (Academy Ave Construction) and 3123 (WHS Construction). This is to clean up funds and move the funds to a capital improvement residual account, and any request to reappropriate for a different purpose requires a measure voted by council. Auditor Swanson confirmed the funds are available.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 11 005 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

11 006- Appointment to the Cemetery Commission- Michael Crowley

Mr. Crowley was not present; he is a Weymouth firefighter currently on duty and he will be available at the council meeting. His request for appointment was reviewed.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 11 006 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Procedure for Review of Internal Audit Reports

Chairman DiFazio noted this is a continuation of discussion begun at the last meeting. Auditor Swanson provided a follow up; several towns were surveyed regarding the procedure for formal review of audit reports. He contact Waltham, Watertown and Worcester and provided the results to the committee. Chairman DiFazio noted that he would like each member of the committee to review the information from the last meeting and table for further discussion at a future meeting, to determine whether to change the approach or maintain what has occurred over the last ten years. Councilor Mathews noted any change would require a change to the procedures and policy manual. There was a brief discussion regarding the procedure that was originally set. Solicitor Lane was requested to provide information regarding the policy and its history and the need for further discussion regarding policy refinement.

Accounting for Southfield Mitigation Funds

Scott Bois provided a MUNIS report to the committee summarizing the funds to Southfield. Auditor Swanson provided a report based on a request from Councilor Smart. He summarized the report regarding revenue from 2008-2011 received from base mitigation. He also reviewed expenditures. Scott then further expounded on the accounting. There was a brief discussion concerning the combining of funds that include services provided and the way funds post. There is a decision pending from DOR regarding placing funds into the Special Revenue account. DOR has been contacted, but the town has not heard back yet. Chairman DiFazio noted he can't reconcile the figures provided in both MUNIS reports. Councilor Mathews provided some of the clarification and Scott reported that there are encumbered funds that have not been spent.

Councilor O'Connor asked how much of the mitigation funds were spent specifically on Legion Field; Mr. Bois was unsure but will provide it. There was a brief discussion on the layout of the report provided by Mr. Bois. There was a discussion of the funds received in the past year, which are a part of the host agreement and triggered by the issuance of purchase and sale agreements in Southfield. There was a very brief discussion of a error made by the Town of Rockland and its effect on the other towns in the agreement.

Councilor Mathews noted there are still several million dollars outstanding in payments from Southfield, and his concern is that the funds are put to the uses determined by the reuse committee in executive session. He recommended the committee draft its own letter to DOR requesting consideration. Chairman DiFazio briefly summarized all of the information that was reviewed and requested that the report provided by Scott Bois be included in the minutes.

Adjournment

At 8:05 PM, there being no further business, Councilor O'Connor made a MOTION to ADJOURN the meeting and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Ken DiFazio as Chairman