

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
May 8, 2023

Present: Michael Molisse, Chairman
Christopher Heffernan, Vice Chairman
Pascale Burga, Councilor
Maureen Kiely, Councilor
Greg Shanahan, Councilor

Also Present: Ted Langill, Chief of Staff
Brian Connolly, Town Auditor
Richard McLeod, Town Solicitor
James Malary, Municipal Finance Director
Bob Conlon, Town Accountant
Bob Luongo, Planning Director
Caroline LaCroix, HR Director
Grant Mongardi, IT Director

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chair Molisse called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. He welcomed all to the kickoff of the FY2024 Budget review season.

Review/Discussion of Revenues, Reserve Fund, Pensions & Benefits, Overlay for Abatements, Revolving and Gift Donation Accounts, OPEB Funding, Debt Service, Local Aid and State/County Assessments and Insurance and review a portion of miscellaneous General Government Departments.

Vote the following measures:

23 078- Appointment to Board of Library Trustees-Mary Mahoney

Ms. Mahoney was invited to the table to provide her interest and qualifications. She reported that she served on the Tufts Library Building Committee.

Councilor Burga motioned to forward the measure to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action, and Councilor Kiely seconded. Unanimously voted.

23 079- Appointment to Scholarship Fund Committee-Cynthia Page

Ms. Page is familiar with the founding members and has watched the committee grow and thrive since its inception.

Councilor Burga motioned to forward the measure to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action, and Councilor Kiely seconded. Unanimously voted.

23 080- Appointment to Fourth of July Committee-Lisa Webb

Ms. Webb was unable to be present.

Councilor Burga motioned to forward the measure to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action, and Councilor Kiely seconded. Unanimously voted.

The committee reviewed the following, using the Q&A provided by the Town Auditor and the responses from administration. Where further explanation was warranted, the discussion is included:

23 045 C- Reserve Fund

23 045 Y- Pensions and Benefits

23 045 BB- Overlay for Abatements

23 046- Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Authorization-Revolving Accounts

23 047- Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Authorization-Gift Accounts

23 045 X- Debt Service

23 045 AA- Assessments

23 045 I- Insurance

23 045 A- Town Council

23 045 B- Mayor's Office

Councilor Shanahan asked clarification on the capital expenses for the Wey/Bra. Mr. Langill explained that when they received the request, they met with staff and viewed their equipment, which is in pretty rough shape. The request includes equipment and maintenance items. It adds one position increasing pension and retirement costs.

In the past, Braintree has donated equipment – he suggested any equipment that schools or maintenance no longer uses could do the same. They also requested more workers, but have agreed to per diem or part-time employees.

23 045 D- Municipal Finance

23 045 E- Town Solicitor

23 045 F- Information Services

23 045 H- Planning and Conservation

Capital Improvement Plan FY2024-2028

23 054- Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Appropriation- CPC

23 066- Free Cash for Lovell Pedestrian Bridge

23 054 J- Asset Management and Building Maintenance

23 065- Free Cash for Wessagusset Front Access and Parking Lot Improvements

23 054 K- Human Resources

23 045 N- Licensing and Inspections

Councilor Burga asked if the town has considered additional renewable energy sources. Mr. Langill explained the town does benefit from solar arrays through their energy consultant that are credited on the bills. The town has 5 electric vehicles in use on the town side; there are others in the school department. Solar panels are on Tufts Library, but it's too early to see the benefit. Chapman School was built with the capacity to take advantage of renewable energy choices. Some municipal buildings are too old to support the technology. There has been discussion about installing canopies for van parking. The transportation building was deemed too expensive an option. Energy is a constant discussion.

23 057- Free Cash for OPEB Fund Contribution

23 056- Free Cash for Stabilization Fund Contribution

Councilor Shanahan pointed out the transparency in posting the budget and presentation to the town website.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:21 PM, there being no further business, a motion was made by Councilor Kiely to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Shanahan. Unanimously voted.

Attachments: Q&A Budget Questions (Administration/Auditor)

Org. Charts

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary.

Approved by Michael Molisse as Budget/Management Committee Chairman
Voted unanimously on 5 June 2023