

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Zoom # 854 3650 4760
November 16, 2019, Monday

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

Absent: Jane Hackett, Councilor

Also Present: Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
Kathy Deree, Town Clerk
Joseph Callanan, Town Solicitor
Robert Luongo, Planning Director
Jody Lehrer, Community Development Coordinator
Trisha O’Kane, Principal Assessor
Paul Haley, Chair, Board of Assessors
Kevin Spellman, Vice Chair, Board of Assessors
Robert Brinkman, Board of Assessors

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chair Molisse called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM. The Town Clerk called the roll, with Councilors Hackett and Kiely not present. Councilor Kiely arrived shortly after the meeting started.

20 112-Fiscal Year Tax Classification

Board of Assessors Chair Paul Haley presented the measure with Vice Chair Kevin Spellman, board member Robert Brinkman and Principal Planner Trish O’Kane. He provided an overview to the committee. Weymouth has historically shifted a portion of the tax burden from residential to commercial/industrial. He is recommending a 1.45 shift, as was done for the last 4 years. 86% of the property distribution in Weymouth is residential. He compared the different shift options, and with the shift the average residential tax bill is down slightly from last year. If a single rate were used (without a shift) there would be a significant increase on the average single-family tax bill. The values are as of January 1st of this year and represent sales that have already taken place. Commercial property owners are having a tough time. With the shift, average commercial property rates are slightly reduced. If it were a single rate, it would be quite a windfall for the business owners. The most that could be shifted is 1.5%. What they recommend will keep the commercial rate fairly flat. The historical trend shows a value increase over the last four years. Equity is building, but the taxes are not increasing. He compared rates to several of the surrounding South Shore towns. Weymouth is still the lowest (even with trash pickup added in). He provided information on Prop 2 ½ and the assessment process. The Council voted to increase the exemption by adopting the local option and increasing

the age and asset limits. Chair Molisse noted it was a difficult year to valuate, with prices increasing. (and still increasing, per Ms. O’Kane). During the discussion, Councilor Kiely arrived.

A motion was made by Councilor Kiely to forward measure 20 112 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Burga.

A roll call vote was taken:

Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Chair Molisse-Yes.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

20 115-Authorization to Accept Fiscal Year 20-21 HUD Grant CDBG COVID-19 Funds (CDBG-CV)

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on November 9, 2020. Jody Lehrer presented the measure. These are grant funds specifically to address Covid-related expenses. She reviewed the programs that would benefit from these funds. Town of Weymouth received funds in the first and third rounds of federal grants.

A motion was made by Councilor Kiely to forward measure 20 115 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Burga.

A roll call vote was taken:

Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Chair Molisse-Yes.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:08 PM, there being no further business, a motion was made by Councilor to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Heffernan.

A roll call vote was taken:

Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Chair Molisse-Yes.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Michael Molisse as Budget/Management Committee Chairman
Voted unanimously on 21 December 2020