

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
Town Hall Council Chambers  
October 21, 2013, Monday**

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

Also Present: Mayor Susan Kay  
William McKinney, Chief Financial Officer  
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chairman DiFazio called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

**13 121-CDBG Authorization 2013-2014**

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on September 23, 2013. Planning Director James Clarke and Economic Development Planner Jody Lehrer were invited to present the measure. Mr. Clarke reported that this request is for the authorization for expenditures for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs. HOME is a consortium of four communities and administered by the City of Quincy. The applications were presented, reviewed and the Mayor made her recommendations. He reviewed a breakdown of the categories-the grant formula allocations include 20% for administration and planning, 15% for public services, and the remainder for infrastructure or construction projects. The remaining unallocated funds will be reserved for projects under review for consideration. Projects include housing services (administering the rehabilitation program to income eligible homeowners), Fogg Library HP accessibility improvements, South Shore Arc Henley building facility (bathroom) renovations; public services including transportation for Elder Services, tuition offset for the WeyCare program, transitional beds at Father Bill's Place earmarked for Weymouth residents, funding for a coordinator in the Weymouth Housing Authority who provides intake and residential supportive services. The HOME program funds are allocated by the community and include administration costs (capped at 10%) and the CHDO set-aside for neighborhood services. These programs include renovations to the Central Street home for Father Bill's Place.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman O'Connor to forward measure 13 121 - to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. A typographical error on page 2 of the memo attached to the measure was noted- to change the year to "2013." UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

### **13 122-Appointment to the Historical Commission-Erica Dumont**

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on September 23, 2013. Chairman DiFazio noted that Ms. Dumont is unavailable to be present, but that the measure expires if no action is taken. The committee reviewed her application and back up documentation which was supplied.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman O'Connor to forward measure 13 122- to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action; he noted that Ms. Dumont's background indicates she is qualified for the appointment, and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

### **13 124-Fiscal Year 2014 Proposed Supplemental Operating Budget**

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on October 7, 2013. Mayor Kay and CFO McKinney presented the measure. Mayor Kay noted that the proposed supplemental budget indicates increases in expected revenues in three areas: meals tax- \$400,000 which will be used for field and park improvements; homeless transportation- \$148,688 which will be used by the School Department for homeless student transportation reimbursement; and motor vehicle excise tax- \$150,000 which will be used by various departments as outlined to fund a non-union employee raise of 3% effective January 2014. Included in the measure was the backup for the total revenues of \$140,309,091, which is \$698,688 greater than the original appropriation of \$139,610,403 voted by Town Council on June 3, 2013. Mayor Kay reviewed the breakdown for the amounts of each increase.

Councilor Mathews asked how the funds earmarked for fields and parks will be allocated. Mayor Kay noted that the 2015 meals tax will be used to begin the work at Legion and Pingree. The 2014 meals tax revenue will be spent in all areas of town: At Legion-to repair stone entrance gate and resurface courts and repair backstops, benches at Stella Tirrell Park, replacement of the slide, backboard and stair repairs at Weston Park/Kids' Landing Playground, vista clearing and historic signage at Great Hill, moving and realigning the northern entrance of Great Esker Park, improvements to the brick, reattach plaques and upgrade electrical service at the wall at the Ralph Talbot Amphitheater at Town Hall; and to provide equipment- mower and tractor for centralized maintenance use.

Councilor Mathews requested the Mayor review the non-union personnel spreadsheet that was provided as backup to the measure. Mayor Kay responded that the sheet reviews the history of the non-union employees, which has no collective bargaining representation. This group has received the lowest increase of all groups in town and has stepped up when necessary.

Chairman DiFazio asked how the administration determined the anticipated meals tax amount. CFO McKinney responded that the amount is a ten-month projection and is based on the recommendation of the Department of Revenue. Mayor Kay noted for Vice Chairman O'Connor that the salary for the position of Parks Superintendent is included in

the line DPW salary line. Although the position has not been filled yet, and the new Director should have a part in the hiring of that position as well as a reorganization of the department. She also noted that since the money was not used last year, it was turned back to free cash.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman O'Connor to forward measure 13 124- to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

### **Mayor Kay's New Automated Trash Recycle Program**

Mayor Kay noted she is pleased with the program and that the only remaining issue is pickups and turnarounds along the one-way streets. This company was asked specifically about these streets and indicated it could handle them. They are in discussion for a long-term solution that does not impose a burden on the residents. The exciting news is there has been a 25% decrease in trash and a 40% increase in recycling; the town will see a significant savings by the end of the year.

Chairman DiFazio reported that the issue was referred to the committee on September 3, 2013, and the committee met on September 23, 2013 and updated the Council. He reported that eight constituents have submitted comments since September 3, 2013 through the Town Council office and the chair provided copies to the committee. The majority of the continued complaints concern the need for additional barrels and their cost. The Budget/Management Committee is also asking for an accounting of the funds for the additional barrels. The Mayor responded that they have requests for about 100 extra barrels and 100 extra small carts have been ordered. She did not know how many have requested additional recycling containers, but will find out. The \$100 cost is an estimate and will be a yearly charge, in order to discourage the use, since we are trying to enhance the amount of recycling. Chairman DiFazio noted that Braintree's second barrel cost is lower, but pickup is higher. He also asked about the pick up on one-way streets, and that residents are expected to leave barrels across the street for pick up. He noted his personal experience is that the drivers are getting out of the truck to get the barrels. He asked if a solution is under consideration. The Mayor responded that the extra trucks following the automated truck is part of the short term solution, and they will come up with a solution for the long-term that will not be a detriment to the residents.

Chairman DiFazio noted that there have been some complaints about the lack of response to phone calls to the contractor. The Mayor asked for the complaints to be sent to her and she will follow up accordingly. She also noted that the company has asked that barrels be placed a foot apart to accommodate the automated pick up-if they're too close together, the arm on the truck comes down to pick up the first cart and in the process knocks the second one over.

Councilor Smart asked for the extra recycling carts which were requested. She estimated it is less than 100. He also requested she reconsider charging those residents who request a second recycling cart for subsequent years, since it helps the town in the recycling effort. Mayor Kay responded that it is reasonable if at the end of the year, the benefit has

proven out. Councilor Smart asked if the program liaison is still available to handle constituent concerns. Mayor Kay responded that she is still available, but her main focus was assistance with the transition; residents should address concerns either to the contractor or the DPW.

Vice Chairman O'Connor asked if the company monitors the barrels they flag for violations. The Mayor responded that she has not seen a report, but assumes they must since they have to return; the company puts a sticker on if the cart is overloaded. If the lid isn't closed it can't be picked up. She will check. He also asked if there is interest in a hardship program or a waiver program for second carts. He asked what the average cost per household per year is to pick up the trash, through the contract? The Mayor will provide. CFO McKinney responded the cost is about \$300 per year; the resident pays \$100 and the town subsidizes the remaining balance.

Councilor Molisse asked how many residents are paying trash fees currently who were not in the past, and asked for a count of the number of additional large and small carts purchased and the resulting revenue from them. The Mayor will provide this information. He also noted the DPW did a fantastic job responding to the residents during the transition process.

Councilor Mathews asked if the town has considered a 96-gallon barrel as an alternative to those residents who need more trash space, but not a full additional cart and the expense. He noted that other municipalities offer this size. The Mayor responded that they hadn't considered this option because there were so many complaints regarding the 65-gallon barrel being too large. She will look into it. Chairman DiFazio noted the first thing is to determine if the company can handle that size barrel.

Chairman DiFazio reported that he reviewed the bids that the Mayor forwarded to the committee. He asked the Mayor if the cost of the bid to continue the old system of collection would have been more expensive than the current program. The Mayor responded that the supplemental costs can be subtracted out from the current program to figure out what it would have cost, and this company still would have been the low bidder. The complaint from the residents is that switching the system has made it more restrictive, and he asked if it would have cost more to keep the prior program. The Mayor responded that the benefit, including a weekly recycling pickup, was huge to the town.

Chairman DiFazio reported that this item will remain as an open item in committee. He will take last comments and report out to the full Town Council at that time.

## ADJOURNMENT

At 7:03 PM, there being no further business, a MOTION was made by Vice Chairman O'Connor to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary  
Approved by Kenneth DiFazio as Chairman-Budget/Management Committee