

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Budget/Management Committee
Town Hall Council Chambers
June 7, 2012-Monday

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

Also Present: Frank Burke, Councilor
Michael Gallagher, Administrative & Community Services -Director
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
Richard Grimes, Chief, WPD
Capt. Joseph Comperchio, WPD
Paul Milone, Harbormaster, WPD
Michael Doyle, Director Parks & Recreation

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chairman DiFazio called the Budget/Management Committee Meeting to order at 6:45PM.

A MOTION was made by Vice Chairman O'Connor to take items 12 092 through 12 096 out of order, and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

12 092- Reappointment to the Construction Steering Committee-Richard McKinnon

A MOTION was made by Vice Chairman O'Connor to forward item 12 092 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

12 093- Reappointment to the Board of Health-Karen DeTellis

A MOTION was made by Vice Chairman O'Connor to forward item 12 093 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

12 094-Appointment to the Waterfront Committee-Patricia O'Leary

Chairman DiFazio noted Ms. O'Leary could not be present, however, she is well-known for her neighborhood activism.

A MOTION was made by Vice Chairman O'Connor to forward item 12 094 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

12 095-Appointment to the Cultural Council-Laura Barreiro

Laura Berriero was invited to the table and she reviewed her qualifications and interest in serving. She is an artist and will promote the arts in town.

A MOTION was made by Vice Chairman O'Connor to forward item 12 095 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

12 096-Appointment to Cultural Council-Terri Savoie

Terri Savoie was invited to the table and she reviewed her qualifications and interest in service. A life-long resident and artist, she will promote the arts particularly to adults.

A MOTION was made by Vice Chairman O'Connor to forward item 12 096 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

A MOTION was made by Vice Chairman O'Connor to take item 12 090 out of order and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

12 090- Reserve Fund Transfer- Special Pension Payment for Military Service

On behalf of the administration, Michael Gallagher requests a transfer of \$3200 from the reserve fund to fund a special retirement for a member on active duty. The memo from the actuary, and request from PARAC were included in the request. Auditor Swanson confirmed there are sufficient funds in the reserve fund to cover the request.

A MOTION was made by Vice Chairman O'Connor to forward item 12 090 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

12 042S-Parks & Recreation (continued from 24 May)

Chairman DiFazio reported that this item was continued from May 24, 2012, at which time the committee had requested additional information. Michael Gallagher and Mike Doyle of the Parks & Recreation Department presented and reviewed the items, including an organizational chart for calendar year 2012, list of permit fees for each field-which are printed on each program application, and revenue for calendar year 2012. They also provided the additional information later requested by Councilor Smart, including the funds expended on fields. Councilor Smart noted he is angered to see groups abusing the fields and noted they can't be monitored at all times. Vehicles driving on the fields are ruining the property and are a safety issue. This is why he requested a list to see what groups are renting them. He has seen out of state plates on vehicles parked there on weekends. It isn't fair that a group can pay a minimal permit fee and tie up a field for any other use for months at a time. He had requested an inventory, how often each is rented, and the revenue produced. Michael Gallagher reported that as a result of these inquiries, there will be meetings with the administration, DPW and Parks & Recreation. The Mayor has met with the Recreation Committee and has charged them with coming up with a fee structure. The committee met last evening and begun a discussion to determine how to

generate revenues to maintain the fields. They are working on a mission statement and game plan. This committee will meet regularly. Councilor Smart responded that he is not looking for huge fees, but there needs to be a plan to keep the fields from being abused. That a \$20 permit can hold a field up from use for months isn't fair. There needs to be something more equitable to the town than stripping from the taxpayers. Michael Gallagher noted that currently groups are paying more in umpire and referee charges than the season's permit fee. Vice Chairman O'Connor thanked the administration for taking the issue seriously. He also noted the best maintained fields in town are the Little League parks at Wanzer and Webb. The league has been given some ownership over the parks and he believes a lack of ownership spreads to lack of care for the property. Mr. Gallagher responded that the Mayor has requested the town solicitor research the deeds to all of the town parks to determine any restrictions to their use. There was a brief discussion of how Weymouth compares to surrounding towns in terms of permit fees; Weymouth is generally lower than others. Councilor Molisse agreed with the Vice Chairman that ownership of a field is a great way to get the parks taken care of; however, he would be cautious that allowing ownership doesn't deter anyone else from using them. These are public parks, and he does not want to see ownership change. Councilor Mathews noted that the future plan should include a policy for permitting which restricts vehicles from fields, and with a progressive punishment to the permitted group for infractions. He also asked if there is currently anything prohibiting permits. There isn't.

Councilor Molisse will schedule a Parks & Recreation committee meeting after the recreation committee has brought its findings forward.

Review/discussion of Police Department budget with Chief Financial Officer, Chief of Police, and applicable Senior Police Staff

Chief Grimes and Capt. Comperchio reviewed the police department budget and provided written responses to Auditor Swanson's questions. They reviewed the level funded budget, which includes step and CBA driven increases. The department has four divisions each led by a captain. The overall staffing is 93 police and civilian positions. Each of the divisions was reviewed: executive, field services support services, and investigative units. Staffing size has not changed in the last year. Chairman DiFazio asked the status of collective bargaining. The Patrol officers signed a Memorandum of Agreement that brings them to 6/30/12, so they will be negotiating again shortly. The superior officers have not settled yet. Economic impact of settled contracts is not funded yet, and may be absorbed in the budget. They reviewed Management and Administration, including staffing, training and equipment and miscellaneous costs. Councilor Smart asked if it is possible to pass on the cost of prisoner meals, matrons, supplies, etc. to the prisoner. Capt. Comperchio responded that they do not directly charge prisoners, but can request court costs during prosecution to recover costs spent on hiring an independent company to clean up after particularly unruly prisoners. The duties of the auto attendant were discussed. Chief Grimes noted this particular person has kept the department from losing vehicles, and he also takes the burden off the DPW's mechanics. The Uniform Patrol budget line was reviewed. The salary decrease is a result of attrition in replacing retired officers. The basis of overtime predictor is past use. There was a brief discussion of the

number of anticipated retirements. The chief responded that officers are not required to notify of their plans, so it's not easy to predict.

Overtime costs are reduced due to reduction in funding. There is some web-based training. There are some officers currently in training and six more will be going to the academy in July. Out of grade pay and backfilling positions was reviewed.

The structure of shifts was reviewed. There are 4 shifts: 12-8, 8-4, 4-12 and overlap of 6-2 AM. The work schedule is four days on/two days off. Administrative and Investigative staff work a five day on, two day off schedule. Minimum manning is five officers during the week, and seven on the weekend. The impact shift factors into the minimum manning. Vice Chairman O'Connor asked what the chief considers the ideal structure. The chief responded that he would like to see front line cars only and additional for back up calls. The current structure requires pulling a sector car as back up and strips coverage from that sector. The rover car is support. Two extra cars would make a huge difference. Councilor Molisse asked about base coverage. The chief responded that the calls are absorbed into sector 5 and there are directed patrols. There is a separate log entry for Southfield and a printout generated weekly. They will be billed at the end of the third quarter. Many of the calls there are larceny of construction equipment and materials. There are currently no road details in Southfield. There was a discussion on staffing levels and the impact once build out of the base is complete. There was a brief discussion of fuel usage. Fuel is obtained at the DPW and a key system monitors the usage. The Harley Davidsons require a higher octane gasoline and the department has a contract with a vendor in town. There was also a brief discussion of traffic signals, proactive drug approach and the size of the investigative unit as compared to other towns. Chief Grimes responded that it is equal to or greater than surrounding towns. If there were more drug officers the number of arrests would go up. Vice Chairman O'Connor noted that as times do get better economically, he would like to see the administration look to increase the force.

A discussion followed on the Southfield project. Councilor Molisse noted that another city is being built, and there are no contracted public safety services. The town's departments can't stretch that far. Chief Grimes responded that when Southfield goes into full swing, there will need to be a revised division of sectors. Sector 4 has gone through a major build out over thirteen years. Councilor Smart reported that the Mayor is actively pursuing service contracts, not only for police, but will hopefully have something to share by the end of June.

Chairman DiFazio asked if the chief could handle a larger department. Chief Grimes responded that he is prepared to handle the department whatever the size. A brief review of the citizen reporting system, radio system, phones, tech support projects and the status of the cellblock and outside camera installations ensued. Capt. Comperchio noted he is considering other projects which will increase security that he will bring forward in the future. They also briefly reviewed grant funding. There are only small grants available – the larger policing grants have gone. There are 911 grants now that only supplement training. The animal control program was reviewed. There is a full time officer who has

combined full and part time positions in order to have the flexibility to respond. They then reviewed the Harbormaster program, which includes one harbormaster and two assistants. The funding is backfilled from the Waterways Fund. They then reviewed the status of several measures approved by the council, including two for the harbormaster vessels and the police building roof replacement.

Councilor Smart thanked the chief for the response his department provides to its citizens. Chairman DiFazio thanked the chief and the captain for the review.

The committee will meet next on June 11, 2012. At 8:23 PM, there being no further business, a MOTION was made by Vice Chairman O'Connor to adjourn the Budget/Management Committee meeting and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Kenneth DiFazio-Chair of Budget/Management