

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
May 11, 2011 - Wednesday**

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

Not Present: Kenneth DiFazio, Chairperson
Michael Molisse, Councilor

Also Present: Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
William McKinney, Chief Financial Officer
Chief Richard Grimes, Weymouth Police Department
Capt. Joseph Comperchio, Weymouth Police Department
Michael Gallagher-Director of Administrative and
Community Services
Scott Bois-Coordinator of Financial Services

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Vice Chairman O'Connor called the Budget/Management Committee meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He reported that Chairman DiFazio had a prior family commitment, and that Councilor Molisse was absent because he recuses himself from deliberations concerning the Police Department.

Review and Discuss Police Department Budget with Chief Financial Officer, Chief of Police and Applicable Senior Police Staff

11 025L-Police Department

Chief Grimes provided an overview of the department and the budget request for 2012, which is increased by 4.7% from last year due to contractual obligations, both union and nonunion. The department will be staffed at the same level as last year; 92 positions and is level service funded. There are current vacancies which will be filled after the budget has been approved. \$9,743,502 is the budget request. Councilor Mathews asked if the vacancies will be hired from lateral transfers. The Chief responded that lateral transfers have been cost effective and provide immediate relief. He has requested a list from Civil Service. It is a slower process but may give local people the opportunity. New hires will require training and associated costs. He will try to do a blend of lateral transfers and drawing from an open competitive list. Councilor Mathews noted that it is a delicate balancing act, as lateral transfers generally have a higher salary. The Chief noted that sometimes the educational incentive does not come with the lateral transfer and this can affect what the town will have to pay. He also likes to blend to keep a smooth balance and the loss of too many members retiring at the same time. Vice Chairman O'Connor

commended the Chief for looking to fill ranks from local or returning vets. Councilor Conlon asked if a background check is done for lateral transfers. The Chief responded in the affirmative. Councilor Conlon noted he prefers new recruits because they can be molded to the town. The Chief responded that when laterals were hired, the risk factor was minimal; each came with a good recommendation.

They then reviewed the responses provided to the questions posed by Auditor Swanson.

- Regarding revenues being down- the revenue is set by Municipal Finance. Much of it is in the form of fines. Collection is down because the main generator, the Traffic department has been reduced to minimum manpower for the last two years. When staffing levels are down, traffic officers are in sector cars and performing to line function and not tickets. Also 111F- Insurance of injured workers is no longer subsidized and the department no longer receives that revenue. Mr. Gallagher further noted that it was removed by the carrier as it was considered not cost effective.
- 4.7% increase in compensation increases
- Duties of the Auto Attendant- Chief Grimes provided an extensive overview of the position. The Chief noted that the position is worth the expense.
- Traffic salary increases are due to contractual increases and a vacancy carried through 2011, and subsequent move of a patrol officer to the position and also results in an offset to the patrol officer line.
- Tech support decrease is due also to internal shift.
- \$50,000 out of grade pay is calculated by best estimate from previous experience.
- Retirement payments are contractual payouts for unused time and estimated based on prior experience.
- Positions will be filled but not increasing manpower level budgeted of 92. Of the 92, there are: 1 Chief, 3 captains, 9 lieutenants, 9 sergeants, 51 patrol officers, 12 detectives, 9 civilian dispatchers, 6 support staff, 1 Harbormaster, 1 assistant, 3 launch attendants and 1 Clam Warden/launch attendant, 1 Animal Control Officer and 1 Animal Control Officer Assistant (part-time). There are 92 sworn officers and 107 total employees (89 male/18 female).
- Traffic budgeted the same as FY11 – 1 clerk and 9 sworn positions
- Miscellaneous expenses include the \$10,000 addition for anticipation of conducting a delegated assessment exam (promotional) from Civil Service. There are upcoming exams that Weymouth is signed up for.
- Overtime is budgeted by using past predictors. There are many unknowns.
- Traffic signal expense includes all signal lights and electricity to use.
- Flat budgets for electricity and gas have been used and are based on past experience. The department tries to stay within the estimated numbers.
- Computer software budgeted covers the upgrades, and IMC yearly support and reporting systems, fingerprint systems, printing and copying, and computer upgrades. Councilor Conlon asked if the department is happy with the enhanced 911 system. Chief Grimes noted it is due for upgrade.
- Animal Control line maintains an amount for cremation services.

- Harbormaster revenues are generated by fines, mooring permits and permitting along the waterfront. The gas line is adequate; the department will work to stay within this budget. \$7500 is adequate to maintain the *Seawatch* once the overhaul has been completed.

Councilor Conlon asked if the wagon is utilized every shift; it's an efficient means of transporting and a visible deterrent. Chief Grimes responded that it goes out for certain shifts; depending on manpower and the preference of the personnel to utilize it. It is at the discretion of the shift supervisor. Councilor Conlon applauded the department's work behind the scenes with reducing the drug trade in the town.

Councilor Mathews asked the Chief what the condition of the department's building. The Chief responded that there is a roof replacement slated under the capital improvement plan. There are other lesser issues; the windows will need to be addressed at some point. The building needs significant upgrades; there is no camera visibility outside of the building. Watch commanders and dispatch should be able to view the outside of the building. He noted that someone could steal a can of tuna at Stop & Shop and they can track him down the aisle and out the door, zoom in on the car license number and tell which direction he goes in, but can't see where he goes once he leaves the front door of the police station. It is a security issue. Prison labor has been utilized to make cosmetic upgrades. Other than landscaping, which is low on the capital list, there isn't a lot of work needed. Councilor Conlon commented that the lack of landscaping around the building bothers him. Councilor Mathews noted perhaps Councilor Molisses' "Adopt an Island" could be utilized. Councilor Mathews also asked if there was a performance bond for the roof on the building. Chief Grimes agreed that someone should have been accountable from the beginning; most of the players are out of business.

Councilor Smart noted that the budget was fairly straight forward. He thanked the Chief for his time and efforts. Vice Chairman O'Connor also thanked him and the captain. He noted he would like to see more funding brought to the department but that the economy is driving the budget process. Chief Grimes thanked the committee and reported that the department appreciates their support.

The Chief also reported that Norfolk County will be testing its Reverse 911 system. A call will go out in the next week to all residents. The system will also ask for residents who wish to add cell phone numbers and email addresses to the "Code Red" software system. The Norfolk County system can be utilized by the WPD. The school system reverse call only goes to homes with children in the schools.

11 043-Town Council Recording Secretary Transfer Request

Councilor Mathews noted that the increase in meetings requires additional funding. Instead of a transfer from the Reserve Fund, there is funding available from the outside auditing contract which was renegotiated resulting in \$2000 cost savings. An intrafund transfer is requested from the audit line to the Recording Secretary line. If this is not sufficient to finish out the fiscal year meetings, an additional request will go to the Mayor for a Reserve Fund transfer. Ordinance Review , numerous constituent issues, and the

need to call Special Town Council meetings have all contributed to additional meetings. A Motion was made by Councilor Mathews to forward item 11 043 with the recommendation for favorable action by the full Town Council and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Adjournment

At 7:55 PM, there being no further business, Councilor Mathews made a MOTION to ADJOURN the meeting and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully Submitted by

Mary Barker as Recording Secretary