

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Town Hall Council Chambers
November 15, 2021, Monday**

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

Also Present: Ted Langill, Chief of Staff
Joseph Callanan, Town Solicitor
Trish O’Kane, Principal Assessor
Kevin Spellman, Board of Assessors
Robert Brinkman, Board of Assessors

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chair Molisse called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

21 114- Reserve Fund Transfer-unpaid bills

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on October 18, 2021. Ted Langill, Chief of Staff, presented the request for a transfer to cover unpaid bills from a prior fiscal year. He reported that the total was corrected in an amended version of the measure, provided to the Council. This measure covers four invoices; one for a harbormaster boat survey in advance of a sale, the second for a recording secretary bill from the Chapman School Building Committee that was submitted late, and the last two are older ones that were issued for intersection designs. Funding from the original measure covering this work was transferred before the invoice was received.

Vice Chair Hackett motioned to forward measure 21 114, as amended, to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action, and was seconded by Councilor Heffernan. Unanimously voted.

21 115- Fiscal Year 2022 Tax Classification

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on November 8, 2021. Trish O’Kane, Principal Assessor and Kevin Spellman, Vice Chair of the Board of Assessors, presented the request for a shift of 1.48% on commercial, industrial and personal property, with no residential exemption. Mr. Haley, the chair, is travelling and unable to attend. A packet was sent to the Council in advance. Ms. O’Kane reported that real estate values on the residential side are through the roof, but commercial/industrial properties were stagnant. Values are based on prior year. The board recommends a slightly different change in the shift for next year. If they were to maintain the 1.45% shift of the last few years, some bills would go down, but would rise more dramatically

next year. This shift tempers the increase on commercial properties. Within it the debt exclusion hit and it was added to the levy limit. There was some utility growth. The shift will add 41¢ per thousand to the average bill.

Chair Molisse asked when the town is due for a revaluation on properties? Ms. O’Kane responded next year for FY23.

Councilor Burga asked about the revaluation. Ms. O’Kane responded that it basically is an audit by the DOR on the methodology before certifying the values.

Councilor Kiely asked based on the estimated increase with the override, what does the increase look like? Ms. O’Kane responded that it adds about 41¢ to the tax rate.

Councilor Heffernan asked if they have any predictions on the future of home values. Ms. O’Kane responded that the market is still very strong. At this time, they do not see any sign of it tanking.

Chair Molisse noted there are 22 houses for sale in town right now. Large homes are selling high, but nowhere near what smaller homes are. It’s good that people want to live in Weymouth. Ms. O’Kane pointed out that the residential bills are still lower than many surrounding communities. Chair Molisse added that with the tax bills and refuse charge, Weymouth is still a very affordable community.

Vice Chair Hackett motioned to forward measure 21 115 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action, and was seconded by Councilor Kiely.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:00 PM, there being no further business, a motion was made by Vice Chair Hackett to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Kiely. Unanimously voted.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Michael Molisse as Budget/Management Committee Chairman
Voted unanimously on 6 December 2021