

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Town Hall Council Chambers
Zoom # 846 7123 5010
March 15, 2021, Monday

Present: Arthur Mathews, President
Michael Molisse, Vice President
Kenneth DiFazio, Councilor
Brian Dwyer, Councilor
Jane Hackett, Councilor
Fred Happel, Councilor
Ed Harrington, Councilor
Rebecca Haugh, Councilor
Christopher Heffernan, Councilor

Absent: Pascale Burga, Councilor
Maureen Kiely, Councilor

Also Present: Robert Hedlund, Mayor
Ted Langill, Chief of Staff
Kathleen Deree, Town Clerk
Joseph Callanan, Town Solicitor
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
John McLeod, Director of Procurement
Richard Fuller, Chief of Police
Kristy Lockhart, Asst. Library Director
Stacy Wilkson, Reference & Adult Services

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

President Mathews called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Town Clerk Kathleen Deree called the roll, with two Councilors absent. President Mathews reported that Councilors Burga and Kiely both have work commitments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Hackett announced that the Recreation Department is moving forward with summer programs. Registration is planned for mid-April.

Councilor Happel announced that the Weymouth Police Department will undergo an assessment for state accreditation. The MA voluntary program will include 257 mandatory and 125 optional standards of assessment. The department must meet all mandatory and 60% of the optional standards.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

20 006- Wharf Street Incinerator Demolition and Site Remediation

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to open the public hearing on measure 20 006 and was seconded by Councilor Hackett. This was advertised on March 12, 2021.

A roll call vote was taken:

Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Solicitor Callanan presented the measure with a powerpoint presentation; requesting that the Town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$940,000 from the stabilization fund to a capital project fund for the purpose of funding costs associated with the demolition of the Wharf Street Incinerator and accompanying site remediation. The work will take place this summer and be completed in September. Funding will come from the stabilization (funds from HCA Enbridge compressor mitigation) and be transferred when free cash is certified next November. The work will remove the incinerator and smoke stack by Osprey Overlook.

He provided a brief history of the incinerator, which discontinued operation in the 1970's and then became a transfer station, landfill and animal crematorium. The landfill has been capped, the park has been opened, the crematorium refurbished into town offices, but the building and stack remain. The stack is the site of cell tower antennas. Initially it was leased in 2001, and amended several times since. AT&T which operates the leases were allowed to stay on as tenants once the leases expired, but they were not allowed to modify any equipment until there was a proper procurement process in place, correcting the previous lease problems. The town may not be able to gain enough funds from leases to afford the cost of removing the incinerator building and smoke stack. During the public hearing process regarding the Wharf Street project, several Councilors expressed interest in having both the building and stack removed. He reviewed some of the issues with the site- graffiti, accumulated bird waste, broken glass and doors and dark areas that pose a hazard to public safety officers responding to calls. A letter was provided from Chief Fuller in which he recommends personnel only enter the site in full protective gear. Similar concerns were expressed by Fire Department administrators, who created a response plan for the site. The Health Department director Dan McCormack has spent hundreds of hours with issues on the site. Another reason for not considering a long-term lease of the cell tower is that the stack requires more than \$100,000 work to maintain its structural integrity. Last year when money became available from Enbridge, the subject came up again, and from a public safety, environmental and public health safety risk, the project qualifies for funding under the HCA.

Vice President Molisse reported that the Budget/Management did not receive the powerpoint in time to review it at their meeting, so the measure will be reviewed during their next meeting.

Councilor Harrington noted that this will be another park project to improve. He is in support.

Councilor Haugh understands the public safety stand, but where did these costs come from? They didn't receive any detail. Is there a replacement for the cell tower? Vice President Molisse responded that it was not discussed in Budget/Management because no detail was provided to the committee. There was nothing to work with this evening.

Solicitor Callanan reported pricing is a pre-bid estimate from Beta Corporation (used in the past on other EPA compliancy projects). There isn't a specific cost estimate. The Mayor has indicated if \$940,000 is insufficient, they may be able to come up with funding elsewhere, such as CPA. There will be options in the bid, to select to fit within the \$940,000. They are working with AT&T for alternative locations, but Weymouth zoning for wireless communication is very strict. This is currently a nonconforming use. They are only permitted to certain heights and in certain zones, by special permit. Temporary arrangements are permitted under nonconforming use zoning. AT&T and Weymouth are unable to find an alternative location at present. It is still in discussions. John MacLeod reported that he was tasked with trying to maintain the security of the building, but it proved impossible. They cannot keep it secure. The engineering process took a few years to scope. There is a tremendous amount of hazardous waste inside. Data Engineering installed the landfill cap, and is knowledgeable of the site. The biggest issue is identifying all the hazards and quantifying them and it's difficult to get an accurate estimate as pricing ranges. With Beta, it was determined \$940,000 is a reasonable cost, and is structured to add or deduct parts to arrive at a number to complete the project. It won't be known until a bid package goes out and the responses comes back. They may be able to buy time in bidding, to be creative. This is a conceptual pre-bid target. They may look to CPC under Open Space to fill the gap if necessary.

President Mathews asked if there were any questions or comments from the public, to which there was the following:

Alice Arena 6 Blueberry Street- notes that the site needs to be addressed and cleaned up. The cost estimate seems exceptionally low with the toxins- asbestos, etc. She can't recall what Legion abatement cost. Is Beta Corp consulting or submitting a bid? Solicitor Callanan responded that it is familiar with Weymouth hazardous waste issues and is consulting. Ms. Arena noted that as a pre-bid estimate; it could come in much, much higher. \$2-3 million is not absurd for this kind of remediation, CPC can't support that. Solicitor Callanan responded that with Mr. MacLeod's expertise, he will be able to pick as many as can to stay within \$940,000. The balance is something that CPC could fund. Without knowing exactly, Mr. MacLeod responded that they can pull back if it's over budget. They can't foresee what's underground. He doesn't believe it's \$2-3 million, but he can't forecast. They are also adding a contingency for a buffer (5%+).

Robert Kearns, 200 Pilgrim Road, E Braintree, expressed his concerns with HCA money not being spent in North Weymouth on the Fore River. It should target there as a priority. What projects are considered there? What is the West Waterfront status? The Host Community agreement between Fore River Watershed and Weymouth- there has to be future funding for those projects to connect King's and Lovell's Groves. Is there future funding for those projects?

President Mathews responded that the Town Council has not received any list as to where the HCA funds are geared for spending purposes.

Solicitor Callanan responded that they are working on completing the West Waterfront loop of the north parcel and in discussions involving Calpine which has easement, and Algonquin, which owns it. The work right now is cleanup and remediation outside where the station was built. Other projects discussed among staff are open to community suggestions. They didn't go in with a list.

President Mathews noted his first question was, is there a list for allocating \$10M? It includes this project, 3- fire engines, and the Complete Streets program. There is no consensus on any but these three.

Mr. Kearns responded that the Fore River Trail and waterfront improvements have been talked about. Mayor Hedlund added that the Fire River trail is conceptual, and not pertinent to this funding source just yet. In the works is a beach connection project, which relies on grant money and contributions from Sea Scape to get to a design phase. Once design work is completed, it will go back to Seaport Economic Development Council for construction grant funding.

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to close the public hearing on measure 20 006 and was seconded by Councilor Hackett.

A roll call vote was taken:

Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

21 007- Community Preservation Fund Transfer for the Purpose of Digitizing Historic Library Documents

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to open the public hearing on measure 21 007 and was seconded by Councilor Hackett.

A roll call vote was taken:

Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Kristy Lockhart presented the measure; a request to digitize microfilm. Stacy Wilson, head of reference reported they are seeking digitalization of 126 reels of microfilm going back 94 years. They receive hundreds of requests for film. They have limited means of filling requests. The microfilm is rapidly deteriorating and often it's too late to salvage. 1869-1924 are current digitalized, and this will cover 1925 to present. There is a bonus; it's an accessibility project. Those who are older or visually compromised would be able to do their own research.

President Mathews asked if there were any questions or comments from the public, to which there was no response.

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to close the public hearing on measure 21 007 and was seconded by Councilor Hackett.

A roll call vote was taken:

Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to take Reports of Committees out of order and was seconded by Councilor Hackett.

A roll call vote was taken:

Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Budget/Management Committee-Chair Michael Molisse

Chair Molisse reported that the Budget/Management Committee met earlier to deliberate the following measure(s):

21 006-Wharf Street Demolition and Site Remediation

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on February 16, 2021 and a public hearing was held on March 15, 2021.

No action was taken at this time. Administration did not provide sufficient information for the committee to vote it out. It will be taken up at the next Budget/Management Committee meeting.

21 007- Community Preservation Fund Transfer for the Purpose of Digitizing Historic Library Documents

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on February 16, 2021. The committee met on March 15, 2021 and voted to forward the measure to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action. A public hearing was held on March 15, 2020.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, Vice President Molisse made a motion to approve measure 21 007; that the Town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$22,680 from the Community Preservation, Historic Resources Fund for the digitization of microfilm reels of the Weymouth Gazette as submitted by the Weymouth Public Libraries and approved by the Community Preservation Committee. Councilor Hackett seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken:

Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

21 014-Appointment to Cultural Council-Dominic Paulo

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on March 1, 2021. Mr. Paulo was unable to be present at Budget Management Committee but the Council had his resume.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, Vice President Molisse made a motion to approve measure 21 014; that that the Town of Weymouth, in accordance with 2-10 of the Town Charter, appoint Dominic Paulo of 65 Webster Street to the Cultural Council, for a term to expire on June 30, 2021. Councilor Hackett seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

21 016-Home Rule Petition-Retirement of Officer Sean Murphy

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on March 1, 2021 and Chief Fuller presented the petition. He read a brief statement outlining Officer Murphy’s patrol career and the unique circumstances that brought this petition to fruition.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, Vice President Molisse made a motion to approve measure 21 016; that Town of Weymouth submit the petition to the General Court of Massachusetts for enactment, a copy of which follows:

“Home rule petition of the Town of Weymouth relative to the Disability Retirement of Officer Sean Murphy

Be it enacted by the by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary and in order to promote the public good, the retirement board of the town of Weymouth shall retire Sean Murphy, a police officer of the Weymouth Police Department, who was injured in the line of duty and, as a result, is permanently incapacitated from performing the essential duties of a police officer. The retirement benefits shall be paid and administered with section 7 of chapter 32 of the General Laws. Upon retirement, Sean Murphy shall receive a lump sum payment from said retirement board equal to his total accumulated retirement deductions.

(b) The annual amount of pension payable to Sean Murphy shall be equal to the regular rate of compensation which would have been payable to him had he continued in service as a police officer at the grade held by him at the time of his retirement until his death or until reaching age 65, whichever first occurs. The retirement shall become effective commencing on the date immediately following the final day for which Sean Murphy received regular compensation for such employment. The additional benefits granted in this act shall be funded and administered by said retirement board, consistent with and subject to said chapter 32, except that sections 8, 91 and 91A of said chapter 32 shall not apply. All amounts paid under this act shall be nontaxable.

(c) Upon attaining age 65, Sean Murphy shall receive a pension pursuant to section 7 of said chapter 32, the yearly amount of which shall be equal to 80 per cent of the average annual rate of compensation paid to him in the previous 12 months.

(d) If Sean Murphy shall be married at the time of his retirement, then, upon his death said retirement board shall pay his surviving spouse if then living, a pension, payable in monthly installments in the amount of 75 percent of the annualized amount of the pension payable to Sean Murphy on the date of his death. The pension shall be subject to section 103 of said chapter 32.

(e) Sean Murphy shall be indemnified for hospital, medical and other healthcare expenses related to treatment of injuries sustained while in the line of duty on July 15, 2018 not otherwise covered by health insurance.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Councilor Hackett seconded the motion. Vice President Molisse offered his best wishes to Officer Sean Murphy and his family.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

OLD BUSINESS

Town Council Letter to FERC - Atlantic Bridge Project, Order Establishing Briefing CP16-9-012-Councilor at Large Rebecca Haugh

Councilor Haugh presented the request to send a draft letter to FERC, which was discussed at the Special Town Council meeting on March 8, 2021. She summarized they have been battling the compressor station siting for over 6 years, in an unprecedented event seeking comment from intervenors as a group. They took the solicitor's advice regarding the suggestion to write a letter and a draft was included in the Council packets. A motion was made by Councilor Haugh to send the following letter:

*"Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE, Room 1A
Washington, D.C. 20216*

*Re: Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC and Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C.
Docket No. CP16-9-012*

Weymouth Town Council Support of the Order Issuing Briefing and Concerns about Air Quality and Public Safety

Dear Secretary Bose,

The Weymouth Town Council wishes to extend its sincere gratitude to the FERC Commissioners for granting an Order Establishing Briefing at their meeting on February 18, 2021 in regards to the Weymouth Compressor Station. The Weymouth Town Council is the legislative branch of government that represents approximately 55,000 residents

in the Town of Weymouth, Massachusetts. We are an elected body, composed of 6 District Councilors and 5 At-Large Councilors.

As the legislative body in the Town of Weymouth, we have been closely following this project since January 2015 when the first landowner information meeting was held at the Weymouth Elks. On June 19, 2017, this body unanimously voted 11-0 a Resolution that was submitted to the above referenced docket expressing concerns about air quality and the effects a gas-powered Compressor Station would have on thousands of residents who live within a mile from the site. We are submitting this letter to you at FERC today to state that we still have the same concerns that we had in 2017 and ever since this project was first introduced.

On September 11, 2020 and September 30, 2020, there were two unplanned gas releases at the station prior to it even being operational and online. During this time, there was no safety plan made available to the Weymouth Town Council nor area residents for the compressor station. This plan was finally made available to residents on October 26, 2020. FERC issued the In-Service Authorization order for the Weymouth Compressor Station on September 24, 2020 without viewing or seeing the safety plan and knowing an incident occurred at the site two weeks prior to issuing the order. We feel that FERC disregarded the fact that an incident occurred in such a residentially dense area and failed to take into consideration for the residents and businesses who live and operate in close proximity to the site, knowing that a safety plan had not even been produced at that time.

Additionally, the Weymouth Compressor Station safety plan only covers concerns within the town borders of the Town of Weymouth. This compressor station sits on the borders of Quincy and Braintree, Massachusetts and there are no official safety plans for residents who live in those communities. There is no requirement to have safety in neighboring towns due to the fact the compressor station is sited in Weymouth. This is a federal regulation that must be fully vetted and reconsidered when siting compressor stations around the country. Regional safety plans are needed for these structures especially when they sit on town borders and have literally thousands of people living within a mile of them. It is not fair nor prudent to have this burden fall on the local municipalities and neighboring towns.

Our elected body is not able to become an official intervenor as a group as we do not formally nor legally represent the Town of Weymouth. Some of our members have chosen to become intervenors as individuals. We do know the area very intimately as we are the individuals who live here and are local representatives to those who live in close proximity to the Weymouth Compressor Station. As elected leaders of Weymouth, Massachusetts, we hope you still take into consideration our comments and concerns about air quality and public safety. Our members work closely with resident groups who have been advocating against the compressor station since 2015. We ask that you please consider the initial briefs that are due on April 2, 2021, from the intervenors that reside in Weymouth, and those that prioritize the health and safety of those that are directly exposed to the Weymouth compressor station. Thank you for reading our comments and your consideration.

Very respectfully,

Councilors”

The motion was seconded by Councilor Harrington.

A roll call vote was taken:

Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR, TOWN OFFICERS AND TOWN BOARDS

Issue-Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2022-2026

President Mathews reported that the CIP was received.

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to refer the matter to the Budget/Management Committee, to be deliberated within the FY2022 Budget process and was seconded by Councilor Hackett. A roll call vote was taken: Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

21 017-Reappointment to the Construction Steering Committee-John Gillon

On behalf of Mayor Hedlund, Director of Municipal Finance James Malary requested that the Town of Weymouth, in accordance with 2-10 of the Town Charter reappoint John Gillan of 111 River Street to the Construction Steering Committee for a 3-year term to expire on June 30, 2024.

21 018- Reappointment to Historical Commission- Mark Schneider

On behalf of Mayor Hedlund, Director of Municipal Finance James Malary requested that the Town of Weymouth, in accordance with 2-10 of the Town Charter reappoint Mark Schneider of 57 Colonial Road to the Historical Commission for a 3-year term to expire on June 30, 2024.

21 019- Reappointment to Local Emergency Planning Committee- Jonathan Tose

On behalf of Mayor Hedlund, Director of Municipal Finance James Malary requested that the town of Weymouth, in accordance with 2-10 of the Town Charter reappoint Jonathan Tose of 74 Patricia Lane to the Local Emergency Planning Committee the for a 3-year term to expire on June 30, 2024.

21 020- Reappointment to Community Events Committee- Frannie Xerokostas

On behalf of Mayor Hedlund, Director of Municipal Finance James Malary requested that the town of Weymouth, in accordance with 2-10 of the Town Charter reappoint Frannie Xerokostas of 126 Oak Street to the Community Events Committee for a 3-year term to expire on June 30, 2024.

21 021- Reappointment to Recreation Commission- Keith Ricci

On behalf of Mayor Hedlund, Director of Municipal Finance James Malary requested that the town of Weymouth, in accordance with 2-10 of the Town Charter reappoint Keith Ricci of 26 Delorey Avenue to the Recreation Commission for a 3-year term to expire on June 30, 2024,

21 022- Reappointment to Waterfront Committee- Patricia O'Leary

On behalf of Mayor Hedlund, Director of Municipal Finance James Malary requested that the town of Weymouth, in accordance with 2-10 of the Town Charter reappoint Patricia O'Leary of 999 Commercial Street to the Waterfront Committee for a 3-year term to expire on June 30, 2024.

21 023- Reappointment to Zoning Board of Appeals- Kemal Denizkurt

On behalf of Mayor Hedlund, Director of Municipal Finance James Malary requested that the town of Weymouth, in accordance with 2-10 of the Town Charter reappoint Kemal Denizkurt of 33 Circuit Road to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a 2-year term to expire on June 30, 2023.

21 024- Reappointment to Board of Assessors-Paul Haley

On behalf of Mayor Hedlund, Director of Municipal Finance James Malary requested that the town of Weymouth, in accordance with 2-10 of the Town Charter reappoint Paul Haley of 55 Cassandra Road to the Board of Assessors for a 3-year term to expire on June 30, 2024.

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse for 2-9 b same night action on measures 21 017 through 21 024, inclusive, and was seconded by Councilor Hackett.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to adopt the reappointment list and was seconded by Councilor Hackett. A roll call vote was taken: Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

21 025-Appointment to the Board of Registrars-Lisa Knoppe-Reed

On behalf of Mayor Hedlund, Director of Municipal Finance James Malary requested that the Town of Weymouth, in accordance with 2-10 of the Town Charter appoint Lisa Knoppe-Reed of 51 Broad Breach to the Board of Registrars for a term to expire on June 30, 2022. This is to fill the vacancy created by a resignation.

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to refer measure 21 025 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Hackett.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

21 026-Appointment to the Conservation Commission-Alexander Donovan

On behalf of Mayor Hedlund, Director of Municipal Finance James Malary requested that the town of Weymouth, in accordance with 2-10 of the Town Charter appoint Alexander Donovan of 4 Payne Avenue to the Conservation Commission for a term to expire on June 30, 2021. This is to fill a vacancy created by a resignation.

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to refer measure 21 026 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Hackett.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

21 027-Authorizing the Weymouth Police Department to Enter Into a Five Year Contract For Body Camera and Vehicle Video Communication Systems

On behalf of Mayor Hedlund, Director of Municipal Finance James Malary requested that the Town Council authorize the Town to enter into a contract for BodyWorn™ Camera and Vehicle Video & Communication Systems for a term of 5 years, commencing in 2021, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30B, Section 12

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to refer measure 21 027 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Hackett.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

21 028- Funding the Replacement of Windows at Pope Towers

On behalf of Mayor Hedlund, Director of Municipal Finance James Malary requested that the Town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$150,000 from the Community Preservation Housing Fund for the replacement of 54 windows at Pope Towers as approved by the Community Preservation Committee.

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to refer measure 21 028 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Harrington.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

NEW BUSINESS

Letter of Support for Weymouth Public Schools Local Vaccination Distribution
-Councilor at Large Rebecca Haugh

In August, a Return to School Committee was formed, comprised of town officials who have met weekly with regard to remote and hybrid learning. It has been a trying year for everyone. Last Thursday a plan was outlined by the School Committee to get all students back to in-person learning by April 26, 2021. There is still hesitation with regard to lack of vaccines for educators; Councilors Happel and Heffernan sent a letter in February to Governor Baker requesting he put school staffers on a priority list for vaccination. Weymouth remains in the red for COVID case

counts. This letter is to show support. If the town can get the number of vaccines they need, then the Health Department can get them installed in arms. She read the letter into the record, and asked for a vote of affirmation:

“March 15, 2021

Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon St.
Room 280
Boston, MA 02133
Governor Charles Baker
(VIA email and US mail)

Dear Honorable Governor Baker:

As vaccine rollouts have been occurring throughout the state since January, we are very grateful that vaccinating educators is now a priority starting March 11, 2021. K-12 Educators and staff are now eligible to sign up through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts vaccination website as well as take part in Educator Vaccination Days on March 27, April 3, April 10 and April 11.

Although most towns in the Commonwealth have transitioned out of the higher risk “red zone” for positive cases, Weymouth was still one of 19 communities that was designated red on the March 4, 2021 state report. We continue to be one of 14 Massachusetts communities in the red from the March 11, 2021 report. We are a high risk community at this point based on the state produced reporting matrix.

Why Weymouth continues to be in the red when all of our neighbors have been able to reduce to the lower risk categories- yellow or green, is still unknown. Due to the critical need to start returning students to school and Weymouth still being in the red, we respectfully ask the Department of Public Health to please consider distributing an adequate supply of vaccines to the Weymouth Health Department so that they can work with the Weymouth Public Schools and other eligible Weymouth educators to set up local clinics specifically for educators in the Town of Weymouth as soon as possible. The town has the personnel, training, supplies and space to effectively distribute the vaccine without any assistance. It’s being able to get the actual vaccines to the people who can execute this quickly and effectively that is the problem.

The ability to bring an educator dedicated clinic to Weymouth will help to reduce our COVID positive cases to get us out of the red, will ensure the required return to school this April is as safe as it can be, and it will also free up vaccination appointments from local distribution sites for the general population.

The Weymouth Town Council recognizes the extreme hardships that students, families and educators have experienced over the past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We understand how we needed to transition to a remote model to ensure public safety and reduce the spread, however we also recognize the extreme mental, emotional and psychological toll this has taken on our students and families in the Town of Weymouth. The faster our educators can be vaccinated, the faster we can get more children back into the classroom and address the educational and emotional needs of all students.

Thank you for your consideration.”

(Electronic signatures of all Councilors voting)

The aforementioned Councilors voted approval at the Town Council Meeting of 15 March 2021.

*CC: Marylou Sudders, Secretary, Health and Human Services
Dr. Kathleen Smith, Interim Superintendent
Weymouth School Committee
State Senator Patrick O’Connor*

*State Representative James Murphy
Speaker of the House Ronald Mariano
Mayor Bob Hedlund
Daniel McCormack, Director, Weymouth Health Department
Elaine Lane, Weymouth School Nurse Leader”*

A motion was made by Councilor Haugh to send the letter of support to Governor Baker and a copy to the appropriate parties and was seconded by Councilor Hackett. Vice President Molisse fully endorsed the motion. He also thanked Councilor Heffernan and Happel for their letter to the Governor. He reported that the Senior Center received 189 calls from seniors last week who do not live in senior housing, requesting inoculations.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Town Council will be Monday, April 5, 2021. At 9:04 PM; there being no further business, Vice President Molisse made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Councilor Hackett.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, , Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Attachments: Wharf Street Incinerator Removal/Site Remediation PowerPoint Presentation

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Arthur Mathews as President of the Town Council
Voted unanimously on 3 May 2021