

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Zoom # 841 5770 8524
April 20, 2021**

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

Also Present: Joseph Callanan, Town Solicitor
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
Kenan Connell, DPW Director
David Tower, DPW Business Mgr.
Kate Marshall, Comm. Development Planner
Michael Flaherty, Director, Weymouth Housing Authority
Thomas Wilburn, First Church

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chair Molisse called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Measure 21 050 was taken out of order because Director Flaherty was not present yet for measure 21 028.

21 050-Appointment to Planning Board-Carsten Snow-Ekelberg

The measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on April 5, 2021. Ms. Snow-Ekelberg was present. She expressed her interest in the appointment, citing her degree from BU, and prior experience in housing positions with the state and City of Cambridge.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hackett to forward measure 21 050 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Burga.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga- Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely- Yes, Vice Chair Hackett- Yes, Chair Molisse- Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

21028-Community Preservation Fund Transfer for the Replacement of Windows at Pope Towers

The measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on March 15, 2021. Michael Flaherty, Director of the Housing Authority, was invited to the table. He explained funding will cover the first phase-. 2nd phase is a few years away, if at all.

Auditor Swanson sent several questions and received thorough responses from Kate Marshall in the Planning Department, that he passed along to the Council. There are adequate funds to support this measure.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hackett to forward measure 21 028 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Kiely. The chair, vice chair and members all agreed it is a great use of CPA funds.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga- Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely- Yes, Vice Chair Hackett- Yes, Chair Molisse- Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

21 051-Borrowing Authorization for Road and Sidewalk Repairs and Reconstruction

The measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on April 5, 2021. Kenan Connell, DPW Director, presented the measure. A late email with the backup was sent by Chief of Staff Langill. The Mayor is putting forward an aggressive paving program in town. They've made a good start this season. The town has thousands of roads, and many are still in disrepair. They fix as they can, with funds as they can appropriate them, and also by holding the utilities to the reconstruction with their projects. \$1.1 million from Chapter 90 funds from the state are coming, and they have also asked the state to contribute to the roads off 18 as well. Quite a few bonding measures and free cash measures that have been put to good use in this administration. The "Pave the Wey" program continues. Chair Molisse pointed out that much progress has been made in a wide variety of areas and he commended the DPW. Mr. Connell responded that it is a team effort.

Councilor Kiely pointed out that they can't do it all, but thanked them on behalf of the residents for keeping the roads safe. Her comments were seconded by Councilor Burga for the work being done in North Weymouth. Director Connell responded that the department is pushing to get in an out before the start of beach season. Councilor Burga noted she hasn't had a chance to look at the list of streets yet, but it will be helpful for the residents to know when their streets are on the schedule to be done. The director responded that the department is not totally on board with providing a list because circumstances can always change that require a change in the schedule. The funding isn't enough to do everything, and sometimes the focus has to change. The program incorporates the curb-line and sidewalk work to for safe access to schools.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hackett to forward measure 21 051 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Heffernan.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga- Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely- Yes, Vice Chair Hackett- Yes, Chair Molisse- Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

21 052-Amend Measure 20 072 (Adams MS Renovation as Part of the New Chapman MS Project)

The measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on April 5, 2021. Chief of Staff Langill presented the measure for \$4.425 million. The original measure is revised for a second time now that the cost of the project is set.

He provided an update-

- \$1 million for the transportation building behind the school- the project is currently out to bid with anticipated completion by October.
- New ADA compliant entrance and parking on Academy Avenue side- they should be worked (engineering) over the summer
- Duct cleaning
- Fixture replacement and retrofitting- \$1.2 million. work will start over summer
- Kindergarten wing in Adams \$1.8 million and on the same schedule as bathroom work

Vice Chair Hackett asked which piece is new and which are adjusted costs? Mr. Langill responded that the transportation project is underway now- all components were always part of the project – it was a matter getting the pricing down.

Councilor Heffernan noted these are smart investments. The transportation building is close to a century in age and falling apart. ADA work also really needed. There are positives coming from the projects- they are heading to a point of great stability because of steps taken now.

Auditor Swanson reported that he sent the administration several questions, but did not receive a response. He asked what accounts for increase in costs; what is the source. The Council should have the comparison from the original cost estimates to the current. Mr. Langill responded that none are new- the original request was for authority to start some of the work. The cost is now at \$4.25 million.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hackett to forward measure 21 052 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Kiely.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga- Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely- Yes, Vice Chair Hackett- Yes, Chair Molisse- Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

21 054-Water Retained Earnings-Libbey Park Replacement Well Implementation

The measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on April 5, 2021. David Tower, DPW Business Manager, presented the measure for \$350,000 for well replacement. 5 years ago, the well experienced drawdown issues, and they tried to recondition it. Exploratory wells were drilled. One will tie into the system and get back into the safe yield. It will hook up to the line to Bilodeau. They had to obtain easements in the buffer zone, and those property owners agreed. Funds will put the well into service. Chair Molisse reported this is money well spent.

Auditor Swanson reported that he verified the free cash is sufficient to fund the request and confirmed it is item #60 in the CIP.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hackett to forward measure 21 054 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Burga.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga- Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely- Yes, Vice Chair Hackett- Yes, Chair Molisse- Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

21 055- Community Preservation Fund Transfer for the Preservation of the First Church

The measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on April 5, 2021. Tom Wilburn, member of the church 45, and on the board of directors presented the request. He provided a brief history of the church, which has been around since 1623, and will celebrate 400 years in 2023. The funding will upgrade 40-50 year old vinyl siding and complete some restoration work on the exterior. They contracted with McKinnell, McKinnell & Taylor and they report it will be appropriate to remove siding and replace with clapboard siding and molding. This building is the 5th structure for the church. Total of \$433,000 is requested for the project. Later, the church will have an open house for the public.

Auditor Swanson noted the measure requests a transfer but it isn't specified which account it will be put in. Kate Marshall in Planning provided him with a thorough response to his questions. He checked MUNIS and balances are adequate to cover.

Ms. Marshall pointed out to the committee that the church will contribute \$30,000 to the cost of the project. Vice Chair Hackett asked for clarification- funding will be \$300,000 from undesignated fund balance and \$114,000 from the historic component? Councilor Burga noted it's a great use of Community Preservation funds and she looks forward to going to the open house.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hackett to forward measure 21 055 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Burga.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga- Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely- Yes, Vice Chair Hackett- Yes, Chair Molisse- Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:38 PM, there being no further business, a motion was made by Vice Chair Hackett to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Burga. A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga- Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely- Yes, Vice Chair Hackett- Yes, Chair Molisse- Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Attachment:

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Michael Molisse as Budget/Management Committee Chairman
Voted unanimously on 17 May 2021