

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Zoom #824 1772 4029
April 5, 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
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
James Malary, Director of Municipal Finance
John MacLeod, Director of Asset Management
Robert Luongo, Director of Planning
Lee Hultin, Assistant Town Clerk
Chief Richard Fuller, Chief, Weymouth Police
Capt. Joseph Comperchio, Weymouth Police

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chair Molisse called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Assistant Town Clerk Lee Hultin called the roll with all members present.

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

Chief Richard Fuller, WPD, presented the request 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.

Chief Fuller reported that Capt. Comperchio spearheaded this effort. About a year ago, the discussions began about cameras in cruisers. Before Police Reform, before the George Floyd incident and in talking with Capt. Comperchio, they decided to give the force every tool available. The George Floyd incident accelerated the work. They worked through policies, and through collective bargaining with both unions to address any issues patrol officers might have. After much research, they have come up with the company that best fits their situation. It's called *Bodyworn by Utility*, whose typical program is a five-year lease. The upfront costs in a lease program are a lot less, and so are the yearly costs. The bulk of yearly cost is data storage; anywhere from \$75,000-100,000 per year. The technology changes pretty quickly, and with this program, cameras are replaced after 37 months. Once the initial five years are up, the department can continue on a year-to-year option. Auditor Swanson sent a list of questions, and they were read and responded to for the record:

1. *Please explain to the Committee the process that was used to obtain quotes/bids for this Service Agreement.*

After extensive industry research we narrowed our search down to 3 companies BodyWorn by Utility, Watchguard, and Axon. We then were able to narrow the field to two possible vendors that could provide the service we were looking for. After interviewing both and receiving demonstrations by 2 companies we determined that Bodyworn by Utility was the best fit for our department, as well as the best overall value for the Town. Axon was not able to provide a demo nor a quote for their product.

2. *How many quotes were received and how did you go about selecting Utility Inc.?*

We ended up getting two different quotes. In evaluating the quotes and other aspects of the two companies it was clear that the best value for the town was BodyWorn by Utility. Axon was not able to provide a demo nor a quote for their product.

3. *Kindly explain what the Pricing of \$773,890 over five years will pay for?*

The purchase for body worn cameras and in-car video is a lease for 5 years. Included in the lease agreement is 20 BodyWorn by Utility in-car video cameras with Rocket Communication link and body worn camera bundle which includes 20 body worn cameras with holster sensor, mounts, media controller, ruggedized tablet display, refresh at 37th month, AVail Web Saas, warranty, and 24/7 technical support; 79 Bodyworn by Utility body camera bundle (body worn cameras, mount, holster sensor, media controller, body worn camera refresh at 37th month, Avail Web SaaS, warranty, 24/7 technical support; 1 Smart Waypoint (high speed data access point, CAD integration, and redaction software. Also included is a \$200 allotment per officer to purchase new BodyWorn ready uniform; cost associated with retrofitting 5 standardized uniform; unlimited licenses supplied by Utility; also included installation, training, configuration and unlimited cloud storage of data. First year of lease is higher due to the cost associated with the allotment of new uniform purchase, retrofit of standard uniforms, installation, training, and configuration.

4. *Will the Police department own any of this equipment or are you leasing the gear?*

No. This is a lease program. The benefit of the lease program is a lower upfront cost and as per our contractual agreement all cameras will be replaced at 37 months with the newest technology. The bulk of the cost in BWC programs is the cost of data storage.

5. *Is the \$773,890 for installing, training, using and servicing the equipment? Will there be any other costs to the Town over five years?*

Yes, installation, configuration, training and unlimited data storage is included in the agreement. There are no other costs to the Town of Weymouth.

6. *Within the Service Agreement Proposal (under comments from Mark Wood) refers to a Master Agreement with the State of Oklahoma is used in the Pricing. Please explain this to the Committee.*

The purchase will be made through NASPO ValuePoint (National Association of State Procurement Officials). NASPO ValuePoint is a cooperative procurement program facilitating public procurement, solicitation, and agreement using a lead-state model.

NASPO ValuePoint the cooperative contracting arm of the National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) a non-profit organization formed in 1947, comprised of the Chief Procurement Officials of all fifty states, Washington D.C. and the U.S. Territories; to promote public procurement throughout the country. NASPO ValuePoint facilitates administration of the NASPO cooperative group contracting consortium of state Chief Procurement Officials for the benefit of state departments, institutions, agencies, and political subdivisions; as well as other eligible entities including cities, counties, special districts, community colleges, universities, and some quasi-governmental and nonprofit organizations.

NASPO ValuePoint Master Agreements are competitively solicited using a Lead State model, supported by a Sourcing Tea comprised of multiple state procurement representatives and subject matter experts; leveraging the expertise and buying power of the many states and other participating entities.

7. *Section 3.1 “Fees and Payment Terms” talks about Customer shall pay annual Service usage fees. Are these Usage fees included in the \$773,890?*

Yes. The user fees are included in the \$773,890.

8. *How will this Service Agreement of \$773,890 be funded? The first payment is to be \$232,167. Will that be paid in Fy2021 or 2022? To what fund and account will that payment be charged to?*

The first payment will be made in FY2021 and will be paid through the Detail Account 8503 3100-211015.

Auditor Swanson asked for confirmation that the cost will not come out of the police operating budget. Chief of Staff Langill responded that it will be covered from the detail

fund which already has over \$870,000—which is more than enough to pay the \$375,000. Background on the detail fee - a few years back a 10% administration fee was instituted and it is collected on all details. Revenue ranges annually from \$350,000 to 500,000 yearly. These, plus recurring fees, will be captured in that fund and it will not have any effect on the operating budget over the next 5 years.

Vice Chair Hackett asked if the measure is coming before Town Council because it is a lease longer than three years; or for the funding? Chief Fuller responded yes.

Chair Molisse commented that it appears everyone is on board for this. Chief Fuller responded that he is proud of the work that was done with both unions and with Capt. Comperchio directing it over the last year. The department is ahead of the curve and this will make it a better police department. It's unusual to have everyone on the same page, and they've crafted a policy that addresses all concerns and that everyone's happy with.

Councilor Burga asked Chief Fuller where the state stands on the legislation and with rolling out mandates for all other departments? Chief Fuller responded that in the current police reform bill, there is a Body-Worn Camera Commission in place to promulgate the rules and regulations by July of 2022. Councilor Burga asked how will that affect the policies that Weymouth makes if there are changes made by the state? Are they working with the state legislators? The chief responded that there are two chiefs from MA on the commission. The only effect it will have is on collective bargaining agreements. If the legislation states “notwithstanding collective bargaining...,” then collective bargaining will rule. If it doesn't, then whatever the state comes up with will supersede bargaining. Councilor Burga noted that usually it is the town or the residents of the town that are asking the departments to obtain these for cameras because of suspicion of police actions, but this town overwhelmingly supports the police department and she is surprised they are proposing and getting ahead of this.

She questions why not do like other towns and roll out in small trial groups before department-wide implementation. Chief Fuller responded that Weymouth is past that point. Boston did a trial run, and a lot of other towns in the same place they are. In discussions with other MA chiefs of policy, it's not if they are coming, but when. The overall consensus was to get out ahead of it. Their approach was to involve the unions and the officers to have a say in how this is implemented, and it has worked out really well.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hackett to forward measure 21 027 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- abstain, Councilor Heffernan- Yes, Councilor Kiely- Yes, Vice Chair Hackett- Yes, Chair Molisse- Yes. VOTED 4-0, with one abstention.

21 006-Wharf Street Incinerator Demolition and Site Remediation

John MacLeod presented the request 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.

Vice Chair Hackett asked Mr. MacLeod if anything has changed since the public hearing and Mr. MacLeod responded that they received an updated opinion from the engineers, that was provided to the Council, which reflects confirmation of the information provided in the hearing; that the limited amount of asbestos in the stack would not raise the price. Estimated bid pricing is \$900,000-150,000, with Beta Engineering doing it. they have been the engineer on that site since 1999, with post-closing monitoring required by DEP.

Chair Molisse asked if there are any plans for the site once it's demolished. Mr. MacLeod responded that use will be some form of open space. No plans or parking designs are set yet.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hackett to forward measure 21 006 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.

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

Ms. Knoppe-Reed was invited to the table to present her interest and qualification for the appointment to the Board of Registrars for a term to expire on June 30, 2022. This is to fill the vacancy created by a resignation. Ms. Knoppe-Reed reported that she worked with Kathy Deree in the last election cycle. She looks forward to bringing her background as a director and problem-solving skills in assisting with the smooth operation of the election process.

A motion was made by Councilor Kiely to forward measure 21 025 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.

21 026-Appointment to the Conservation Commission-Alexander Donovan

Mr. Donovan was invited to present his qualifications and interest in the appointment to the Conservation Commission for a term to expire on June 30, 2021. This is to fill a vacancy. Mr. Donovan, of 4 Payne Avenue, cited his experience in construction management and his involvement with the Open Space Committee and scouting to bring a balanced perspective to responsible development and conservation.

Vice Chair Hackett asked if this appointment is to fill the balance of Mr. Tanner's term? Chair Molisse responded yes.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hackett to forward measure 21 026 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 6:25 PM, there being no further business, a motion was made by Councilor Kiely to adjourn 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.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

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