# TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Town Hall Council Chambers September 12, 2022, Monday

Present: Michael Molisse, Chairman

Christopher Heffernan, Vice Chairman

Pascale Burga, Councilor Maureen Kiely, Councilor Greg Shanahan, Councilor

Also Present: Ted Langill, Chief of Staff

Richard McLeod, Town Solicitor Brian Connolly, Town Auditor Rob McLean, Director of Libraries

James Malary, Director of Municipal Finance John MacLeod, Director of Procurement

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chair Molisse called the meeting to order at 6:46 PM.

#### 22 119-Reserve Fund to Library Overtime

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on August 15, 2022. Library Director Rob McLean presented the request; that the Town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$12,000 from the FY23 Reserve Fund to the following line items:

\$4,000 to the Library Building & Grounds Maintenance Overtime line item and \$8,000 to the Library Main Library Overtime line item

Director McLean explained that there were six resignations recently in the department, and coverage required him to expend much of his overtime in part-time coverage. Filling the positions has been difficult. There were times when a lack of coverage forced the closing of the Fogg Library or Tufts' Children's Room during normal operating hours because they lacked the staff to cover them. This funding request will get them through this fiscal year. Three openings currently exist, and Director McLean invited the public to submit applications; the postings will be up this week.

Councilor Kiely responded that it isn't acceptable to have to shut operations for lack of coverage, given the amount that was spent to construct the facility and how often it is used.

Councilor Shanahan agreed; it is a shame to see the town go without for a facility

It's a resource to take pride in. He asked for confirmation that disruptions in operations is strictly a result of staff shortages. Mr. McLean responded that it is the absence of a line item for non-custodial staff; they can't offer overtime in order to keep programs open when there isn't coverage. Going forward, it would be nice to have more staff, to serve the community.

Vice Chair Heffernan motioned to forward measure 22 119 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action, and was seconded by Councilor Kiely. Unanimously voted.

## 22 120-CPA Funding Request-Improvements at Osprey Overlook Park

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on August 15, 2022. John MacLeod presented the request; that the Town of Weymouth appropriate the sum of \$370,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance, for improvements at Osprey Overlook Park. A public hearing is scheduled at the Town Council meeting to follow.

Director MacLeod reported that funds will be used for finishing work at Osprey Overlook Park. There were some hurdles and change orders affecting the completion, but the finish line is in sight. The funding will close the gap over the next few weeks with the topography work. The stack will be coming down next week. He explained the biggest cost was waste materials disposal after the closing of the nearest facility that could accept it.

Councilor Burga asked what is left to be done. There is a connector tunnel between the main building and stack that remains to be remediated, as well as asbestos found between walls that required an amendment from DEP. Final work will include addressing the topography and walkways.

Vice Chair Heffernan motioned to forward measure 22 120 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action, subject to a favorable public hearing, and was seconded by Councilor Kiely. Unanimously voted.

## **22 121-Reserve Fund for Accounting Services**

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on August 15, 2022. presented the request; that the Town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$30,000 from the FY23 Reserve Fund for the purpose of paying accounting services following the retirement of the town accountant.

James Malary reported that, with the retirement of Town Accountant Pat Cook and her assistant, the Eric Kinsherf CPA firm has been contracted to provide accounting services associated with the closing of the FY22, certification of free cash and setting a tax rate on time. Several CPA firms were solicited for proposals. Eric Kinsherf was the single respondent. This will allow the town to maintain continuity between the staff retirements and a new person starting on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Pat Cook and her assistant have agreed to assist during the transition and turnover.

Councilor Shanahan commented that the new hire will have big shoes to fill.

Vice Chair Heffernan motioned to forward measure 22 121 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action, and was seconded by Councilor Kiely. Unanimously voted.

### 22 122-Appointment to Board of Registrars-Linda Rorie

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on August 15, 2022. presented the request; that in accordance with Section 2-10 of the Town Charter, the Town of Weymouth appoint Linda Rorie of 693 Commercial Street to the Board of Registrars. This is a 3-year term due to expire on June 30, 2025.

Ms. Rorie was invited to the table. She stated that she applied because she believes in fair elections and in the integrity of the election process. People don't know what's going on behind the curtain and she wants to inform them that nothing is. She brought with her a procedures manual and the MGL official guidelines on elections as her reference.

Vice Chair Heffernan motioned to forward the measure to the full Town Council with a recommendation for unfavorable action, and was seconded by Councilor Burga. Unanimously voted.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:01 PM, there being no further business, a motion was made by Vice Chair Heffernan to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Shanahan. Unanimously voted.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Michael Molisse as Budget/Management Committee Chairman Voted unanimously on 3 October 2022