

**Budget/Management Committee Minutes**  
**Town Hall Council Chambers**  
**March 11, 2024 at 7:15 PM**

Present: Greg Shanahan, Chairperson  
Pascale Burga, Vice Chairperson  
Maureen Kiely  
Rick Coughlin

Absent: Gary MacDougall

Also Present: Ted Langill, Chief of Staff

Recording Secretary: Kim McCutcheon

Chair Shanahan called the Budget/Management Committee meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

**Measure # 24 005 Revoke Opioid Settlement SPSF**

This measure was referred to the Budget Management Committee on February 1, 2024. Chief of Staff Langill presented the request, “That the Town of Weymouth revoke the establishment of the Opioid Settlement Special Purpose Stabilization Fund (Established by Measure 23 035, Fund 8323).

On December 4, 2023, Governor Healy signed Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023. Section 9 of the law provides, in part, for an exception to the legal requirement that all receipts are to be recorded as general fund revenue for Opioid Settlement Receipts. Municipalities may now account for these receipts in a Special Revenue Fund. A separate companion measure is being filed to establish a Special Revenue Fund for Opioid Settlement Receipts.”

Mr. Langill stated he would be speaking about both measures together because they go hand in hand, revoking one fund and creating a separate fund for the same purpose, with more flexibility in the operation of that fund.

Mr. Langill provided a brief history of the background of the accounts. Massachusetts was part of lawsuits against opioid manufacturers and distributors. Part of the overall payout went to municipalities across the country of which Weymouth was one of them. Now that the settlement has been resolved, the Town is starting to receive money from those settlements on an annual basis. There were issues at the local level because the revenue was received and could not be spent due to how it was set up, and the funding fell to free cash. That free cash was then sent into the existing Opioid Settlement Special Purpose Stabilization Fund. Governor Healy has now passed a law allowing municipalities to create a special revenue account in its place which is what the Town of Weymouth will do. The new fund will provide more flexibility for the Town to address emergencies and more time sensitive needs. It is similar to other revolving funds in town that the Council votes on an annual basis, earmarked for this specific purpose and can be spent

within the parameters set by that revolving fund and done without having to appropriate each time. The parameters of how the funds can be expended are set by the settlement and not the Town. The Town may spend the funds and are broken into four categories; prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery; regardless of the fund the monies are in. Mayor Hedlund has created an opioid abatement working group made up of first responders, a medical professional from addiction medicine, a resident who has lived experience with opioids, Mr. Langill will be the representative from the Mayor's office and a representative from the Health Department who is the Substance Use Prevention Coordinator. The five members of the committee will meet and review requests received for use of the funds and as a group vote how to allot the money.

Mr. Langill advised the committee there is a webpage on the Town's website which includes a form that groups or others may fill out to request funding.

Councilor Coughlin asked Mr. Langill roughly how much funding comes into this fund on an annual basis, as he knows it will vary. Mr. Langill confirmed the funding does vary but at this time the Town has collected a little over a couple hundred thousand and can provide a report with actual numbers to the committee. When all is said and done it will be over one million dollars, but that will be over many years. Mr. Langill can provide a report that contains a schedule breaking down each settlement which includes a dollar amount and when it will be received.

Vice Chair Burga asked for clarification regarding the website where someone may go and apply for benefits. Mr. Langill confirmed it is on the Town's website and they will also be adding information regarding the working group so people are aware it has been established.

Councilor Kiely asked Mr. Langill if funds from the settlements are used for the clinician that works at the police department. Mr. Langill confirmed no it was not. Funds can be used administratively but are not being used for that purpose at this time.

Vice Chair Burga confirmed the information is on the Town's website at <https://www.weymouth.ma.us/substance-use-prevention>. There are many links for resources and proposals for funding, prevention and medical disposal.

Councilor Burga made a motion to refer to the full Town Council **Measure #24 005** Revoke Opioid Settlement SPSF with favorable action. Motion seconded by Councilor Kiely. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

### **Measure # 24 006 Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Account**

Councilor Burga made a motion to refer to the full Town Council **Measure #24 006** Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Account with favorable action. Motion seconded by Councilor Kiely. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

At 7:21 p.m., there being no further business, Chair Shanahan entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilor Burga made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Councilor Coughlin.  
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by Kim McCutcheon as Recording Secretary

Approved by Chair Greg Shanahan—Chair Budget/Management Committee  
Approved by Town Council on 1 April 2024