

**Budget/Management Committee Minutes
Town Hall Council Chambers
20 November 2023**

Present: Michael Molisse, Chairperson
Pascale Burga
Maureen Kiely
Greg Shanahan

Absent: Christopher Heffernan, Vice Chairperson

Also Present: Auditor Brian Connolly
Attorney McLeod
Tricia O’Kane, Principal Assessor
Board of Assessors

Recording Secretary: Diane Hachey

Chair Molisse called the Budget/Management Committee meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

23 130- Fiscal Year 2024 Tax Classification

Tricia O’Kane and Paul Haley (Chair of the Board of Assessors) presented the measure via a handout.

Mr. Haley noted that the values are reflective of 2022 and that at the beginning of the year the Principal Assessors begins to accumulate data computer models and calculates the information. On 13 October the assessors reporting was accepted by the DOR. Therefore the next step is to determine what the levy will be.

Mr. Haley noted that the residential value is \$10,690,886,686 which is 86.75%, commercial value is \$894,206,994 which is 7.25%, industrial value is \$431,046,200 which is 3.50% and finally personal property totals \$308,208,350 which is 2.50%. Most of the burden is carried by residential.

The fiscal year 23 levy limit is \$126,135,128; the prop 2 ½ increase represents \$3,153,378; added to new growth forecast for revenue of \$2,216,900; the fiscal year 24 levy limit is \$131,505,406; added to this, the debt exclusion of \$4,893,611—the total maximum allowable tax levy is \$136,399,017.

Mr. Haley further noted that aside from Brockton, Weymouth has the lowest tax rate in the area.

They are requesting approval of a classification tax rate shift of 1.47 for commercial, industrial and personal property taxes with no residential exemption for fiscal year 2024.

Councilor Kiely asked about property tax relief programs. Ms. O’Kane noted that low income seniors and veterans with service connected disabilities are eligible, after certain criteria are met.

The town asked for an increase to the current \$500 exemption and it was doubled to \$1000 and they saw twice the amount of eligible exemptions.

Councilor Kiely continued and asked about the effect on the shift of new developments with commercial on bottom floors with residential above.

Ms. O’Kane noted that buildings are primarily residential and new buildings are assessed on 1 January each year. This means we are taxing based on what is in the location at that time.

Councilor Kiely noted her advocacy of allowing tax incentives for businesses to come to town to occupy empty storefronts.

Stella Mach (recently appointed Board of Assessors member) noted the demographics of Weymouth as primarily family and elders versus a young population.

Councilor Burga is questioning the effects of the assessments based on location by the ocean, condominiums, or section of town. Ms. O’Kane said that they look at location, size, style and age—which all play into the assessment and all data is viewed collectively.

Councilor Kiely made a motion to recommend favorable action to the full Town Council for measure 23 130 which was seconded by Councilor Burga.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

23 131-Lease Term of Wireless Communication Site Lease

Attorney McLeod presented that this is a 5- year contract with Verizon, to be installed at the cupola atop the Town Hall. Each year the contract will escalate by 3 %. He noted that the town is searching for a permanent site but it is difficult as a stand alone would be obtrusive to neighbors.

Councilor Kiely made a motion to recommend favorable action to the full Town Council for measure 23 131 which was seconded by Councilor Burga.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

23 132-Appointment to the Cultural Council-Evelyn Czaja

Ms. Czaja approached the committee and noted that she is a professional musician and taught for 37 years. She has resided in Weymouth for 25 years.

Councilor Kiely made a motion to recommend favorable action to the full Town Council for measure 23 132 which was seconded by Councilor Burga.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Chair Molisse excused her from attending the Town Council Meeting at 7:30 PM.

23 133-Appointment to the 4th of July Committee-Joshua Murray

Chair Molisse stated that he was unable to attend this evening, he will be on the agenda for Budget/Management and Town Council on 4 December 2023.

At 6:41 p.m., there being no further business, Councilor Kiely made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Councilor Burga. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Hachey as Recording Secretary.

Approved by Michael Molisse as Chair of the Budget/Management Committee
Voted unanimously on 4 December 2023