

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
May 19, 2014, Monday**

Present: Michael Molisse, Chairman
Patrick O'Connor, Vice Chairman
Rebecca Haugh, Councilor
Brian McDonald, Councilor

Not Present: Jane Hackett, Councilor

Also Present: William McKinney, CFO
James Clarke, Director, Planning & Community
Development
John McLeod, Project Manager
Richard Grimes, Chief, Weymouth Police Department
Joseph Comperchio, Captain, Weymouth Police
Department

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chairman Molisse called the Budget/Management Committee meeting to order at 6:40PM.

14 075-Reappointment to the Community Events Committee-Peter Webb

A MOTION was made by Councilor McDonald to forward item 14 075-Reappointment to the Community Events Committee-Peter Webb to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Haugh. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

14 076-Reappointment to the Fourth of July Committee-Peter Webb

A MOTION was made by Councilor McDonald to forward item 14 076-Reappointment to the Fourth of July Committee-Peter Webb to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Haugh. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

14 077-Civil Defense Department Transfer Request

CFO McKinney presented the measure for a transfer of \$150 from the expenses to salary line item of the Civil Defense Department budget to rectify an omission for non union raises that were omitted from the list previously approved. A MOTION was made by Councilor McDonald to forward 14 077-Civil Defense Department Transfer Request to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Haugh. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

14 044-CPC-Stella Tirrell Park In-Line Hockey Rink

Chairman Molisse reported this item was tabled at the April 22 Budget/Management Committee meeting.

A MOTION was made by Councilor McDonald to take item 14 044 off the table and was seconded by Councilor Haugh. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Jim Clarke and John McLeod were invited to the table. The public hearing was held on May 5, 2014. Mr. Clarke provided a handout in response to the Council's request for an itemization of the projects at Stella Tirrell allocated with meals tax revenue. The list was provided and reviewed and includes the baseball field-backstop, bleacher and batting cage improvements, and the Union Street entrance and the proposed hockey rink from the unused tennis court area. The public comments indicate there is support for the inline rink. The foundation is there-fencing and ground. The \$50,000 requested will complete the project. Mr. McLeod provided an update of the proposed work and the pricing.

Mr. Clarke reported that the entrance gate piers pricing is an estimate; it is currently out to bid. Councilor McDonald asked if the work will be completed in time for the summer season. Mr. McLeod responded that it should if the Council takes action. The rink material provider is a sole source with an estimated 6-week delivery. Councilor Molisse asked if the construction will be secure. Mr. McLeod responded that the work is semi-permanent and they have the ability to secure it. Councilor Haugh noted she is pleased with the manner in which meals tax has been used in town. Chairman Molisse asked if the parking will be an issue during the construction process. Mr. Clarke responded that the Recreation Commission is working with each park group.

A MOTION was made by Councilor McDonald to forward item 14 044-CPC-Stella Tirrell Park In-Line Hockey Rink to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Haugh. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

14 045-CPC-Preservation of Weymouth's Dugout Canoe

Chairman Molisse reported that this item was tabled at the April 22, 2014 Budget/Management Committee meeting.

A MOTION was made by Councilor McDonald to take item 14 045-CPC-Preservation of Weymouth's Dugout Canoe off the table and was seconded by Councilor Haugh. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

A MOTION was made by Councilor McDonald to forward item 14 045-CPC-Preservation of Weymouth's Dugout Canoe to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Haugh. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

14 057L-Police Department

Chief Richard Grimes and Captain Joseph Comperchio provided the WPD's proposed FY15 budget in a power point presentation. This budget represents a reduction of the

original \$10,269,402 budget that was submitted to the Mayor. The reductions that were subsequently made were largely to the overtime projections to meet the Mayor's request. Auditor Swanson provided a list of questions based on his review of the proposed budget and the responses were incorporated in the department's presentation. Included in the presentation:

- Review of the Organizational Chart
- Schedule FY15 Manpower and Current Staffing Levels- and reviewed changes. It was noted that while there is no change in manpower number, positions have been shifted.
- Expense budget analysis- includes step and collective bargaining changes. All three unions are still without a contract. No anticipatory settlements costs are included.
- Training Equipment-this is academy and new recruit expenses and includes entrance exams, recruit training and startup costs
- Miscellaneous- this includes anything not assigned to a specific line item; it covers prisoner meals, maintenance, cleaning, hardware, matron expense
- Equipment line-zero budget; this includes carryovers for amounts encumbered for vehicle purchases.
- Uniformed Patrol- detail provided. This is not likely billed at the start of the year, since recruitment training is dependent on academy availability. There is a possibility an academy will be open in September.
- Overtime – training budget- this training can run on or off duty and covers firearms training and in-service state mandated training.
- \$50,000 Out-of-Grade Pay events are in contractual agreements and are estimated based on best practices. (During this discussion, Councilor O'Connor arrived.)
- Payments- estimated retirement payouts include vacation and sick time and vary per individual. This estimate is based on past practice.
- Internal Controls-vehicle fuel. This is monitored. The Harleys use a different octane and obtain fuel from another vendor.
- Traffic Division- component of salary; includes covering eliminated position and non union raises.
- Patrol Officer vacancy- this will be filled from the patrol division.
- Gas-motorcycles – the Chief believes the amount will be sufficient. They are selective in use due to weather.
- Traffic Signal expenses- this covers the maintenance and electricity to operate the town-owned signal lights. The Chief noted it makes sense to anticipate and roll out replacements to the older technologies. He reviewed the current process to resetting relays.

Chairman Molisse asked if the department has budgeted the return of the traffic supervisors. The Chief responded that he has not as it the number is still under negotiation. His proposed budget is for currently existing operating services and does not include traffic supervisors.

- Investigation-The increase in salaries is due to a shift in personnel as a result of the training of the licensing officer's replacement prior to his retirement. It also

includes a restructuring of the school resource officers. The Chief noted that the reduction in the investigations division was offset in Uniform division.

- Technical Services- there are seven part-time dispatchers that are per diem with no benefits attached and is a result of 2001 arbitration agreement. The per diem position costs less and eliminates the use of overtime.
- Overtime training- \$25,000-this covers technical training of dispatchers on 911 equipment. Most of the dispatchers also work in other agencies and are already certified.
- Dispatcher Overtime- \$60,000 -this is by contractual agreement but was reduced with the use of per diems.
- Electricity, gas, heat- there are no shared contracts with other departments for the provision of these services. There were items identified in an energy audit a few years ago that are on the current Capital Improvement Plan.
- PC Software- the Chief noted that the pc system is costly to upgrade. This includes replacement units, licenses, software systems, reporting systems and maintenance agreements.
- Radio Repair- this covers the service contracts and all of the radios, portable and console equipment. The Chief noted that the system is in better shape than it has been for a long time.
- Animal Control Division- this covers one officer in the division and provides for the maintenance, electricity, phone, operating supplies, mailing, clothing allowance, emergency veterinary services, euthanasia and pound fees. The town has shut down most pound services as a result of the building's condition. The town has storage agreements with Braintree and other towns. The Chief noted they reduced the part-time position and increased the main officer from 35 to 40 hours per week. The division is running well and the changes were productive.
- Harbormaster line item includes boat storage, closing allowance, 1 full-time and 2 assistants, launch ramp attendants, a shellfish warden, the provision of fuel and electricity, boat maintenance and operating supplies, printings/mailings salaries and telephone and training fees.

Councilor O'Connor thanked the Chief and Captain for the presentation noting it was very thorough and well done.

The Chief noted that staffing, as always is a huge issue. They are budgeted currently for 93 officers; numbers have consistently been on the decline due to budgetary constraints, but the department continues to provide services although the number and severity of calls has significantly increased. He anticipates the department will respond to 40,000 calls this year. He has raised the minimum staffing level on shift for safety and cited a recent call that required multiple responses. Fortunately the call came in during shift change and they were able to accommodate it. All three bargaining units are out of contract. He noted all budget woes end up on the backs of the officers and while other surrounding communities are adding to their rosters, Weymouth is not but needs to. The development of Southfield has brought out that it is held to a standard that Weymouth cannot uphold. The Town does not meet the national standards. The discussion also included the condition of the department's vehicle fleet. The Chief noted that it is in the

best condition it has been for a while. They have been able to keep on top of replacements. They do need to replace the prisoner transport wagon and it is included on the CIP. As long as the department can sustain replacement vehicles, they will continue to be in good shape. Neglect over a period of just two years will cause problems rolling back front line vehicles.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Molisse will email the other members for their availability for a May 28, 2014 meeting. At 6:44 PM, there being no further business, a MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Councilor Haugh. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Chairman Michael Molisse

Voted unanimously on 16 June 2014