

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
Town Hall Council Chambers  
November 16, 2016, Wednesday**

Present: Michael Molisse, Chairman  
Patrick O'Connor, Vice Chairman  
Jane Hackett, Councilor  
Rebecca Haugh, Councilor

Absent: Brian McDonald, Councilor

Also Present: Ted Langill, Chief of Staff  
Brian Connolly, Chief Financial Officer  
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor  
John MacLeod, Director of Asset Management  
Steve Reilly, Director of Parks and Recreation

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chairman Molisse called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**16 141A-Borrowing Authorization for Field and Park Improvements**

John MacLeod and Steve Reilly were invited to the table.

Councilor Hackett noted the presentation was very thorough at the public hearing and that the Conservation Commission would issue its order of conditions. She was pleased with the outsourcing of installation and maintenance for irrigation. DPW and School Department try to accommodate but there are 7 different systems in town. She likes the approach with standardizing everything. She met with Weymouth Youth Football and they are playing all of their games on turf and looking to relocate their practice facility and equipment to a grass field. What they are practicing on needs to be changed. They don't need all the time for practice on turf.

Chairman Molisse thanked her for the update.

Councilor Haugh noted the public comments made about maintenance at Legion. She has noticed that trash gets picked up by part timers. Is there any plan to do the same at Lovell? Mr. Reilly responded that it's Park Dept. staff members; they keep eyes on the park and clean up the trash and it has worked well. A similar model is planned for Lovell although it's a smaller facility. As busy as Legion is, Lovell may be more so. It will be necessary to be cognizant that small businesses in that neighborhood don't lose revenue to the concessions. Having staff will be absolutely necessary. She asked if lacrosse has had any issues? Councilor Hackett responded that she spoke with them yesterday. There is perception that the rectangular fields are solely soccer driven and this is not the case.

Libbey was selected not only because Weston didn't fit, but to accommodate the middle school programs across the street. The only way to break the perception is through experience and discussion with the groups. They all have to be open to change. It is not going to be pre-permitted construction. There will need to be a discussion of fees. Parents are paying for the programs through property taxes. They have the confidence that the Mayor is on board. There is a revenue generating aspect as well as creating safe fields they can be proud of. They are going from 2 fields to 4.5. Football had other options they chose not to explore. The original Legion Field had a state of the art baseball and basketball facilities that were removed, and have been addressed with the current plan.

Brian Connolly and Ted Langill were invited to the table to review the financial aspect.

Auditor Swanson noted that there is a measure to bond \$10 million for parks. He suggested increasing the bond rather than taking additional funding from the Special Purpose Stabilization Fund. Mr. Langill responded that the financing plan is a result of several weeks' work to prepare a balanced approach. He also noted that the town is not done collecting fees to replenish the Stabilization Fund. The bonding will be for the larger projects. In principle, they shouldn't be borrowing for the smaller projects. He is not comfortable adding it to the debt service budget. Based on the impact to the operating budget, a balanced approach and factoring in new revenue, they are comfortable with this financing package. If for some reason revenue projections don't play out, there is leeway. Councilor Hackett agreed. She noted that this is a reasonable approach and is a tremendous advocate of bonding and she appreciates this and other projects coming forward.

Councilor Haugh asked if Parks and Recreation are hashing out scheduling and fee scales. Will a good portion of the fees be paid by user groups? Mr. Langill responded that they are relying only on two year's field revenue to pay for the bond; otherwise it will be reinvested toward future field replacements. Chairman Molisse asked if they will be able to afford those two years without having to cut into anything else. Mr. Langill responded yes; at no time would they need to find more than \$180,000 in a given year and that is achievable.

Councilor Hackett asked about the use of the meals tax. Mr. Langill responded that as fields come on the books, the revenue from meals tax could be dedicated to the field maintenance. It will balance out over the years, and at the end they'll have a dedicated revenue source for field maintenance.

President O'Connor noted that this plan is long overdue. Under the leadership of the Mayor, and with the use of meals tax as a dedicated component, it is an opportunity to fix a long overdue problem.

Councilor Haugh noted that this has the support of the administration, the public, the schools and is well thought out. She looks forward to it.

Chairman Molisse reported that this is money well spent- these will prove to be self-sufficient in the long run.

A motion was made by Councilor Hackett to forward measure 16 141A-Borrowing Authorization for Field and Park Improvements to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Haugh. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**16 141B-Special Purpose Stabilization Fund Transfer for Field and Park Improvements**

A motion was made by Councilor Hackett to forward measure 16 141B to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Haugh.

Councilor Hackett thanked Chairman Molisse and Councilor DiFazio for their work and support from the beginning and keeping the issue in the forefront, and to Mr. Reilly and MacLeod; this was the most collaborative effort in this administration today. There are a lot of other things going on and she is fully appreciative of the work by Mr. Reilly and MacLeod. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:35 PM, there being no further business, a MOTION was made by Councilor Haugh to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Hackett . UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Michael Molisse-Chair of the Budget/Management Committee

Voted unanimously on 19 December 2016