

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
November 17 2014, Monday**

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

Also Present: Susan F. Kay, Mayor
William McKinney, Chief Financial Officer
George Lane, Town Solicitor
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
James Clarke, Director of Planning
Walter Flynn

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chairman Molisse called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

14 109-Appointment-Gregory Guba/Director of Human Resources

Michael Gallagher introduced Mr. Guba, who was invited to the table to review his qualifications. Mr. Guba reviewed his employment history.

A motion was made by Councilor Hackett to forward measure 14 109-Appointment-Gregory Guba/Director of Human Resources, to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Haugh UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

14 110-Appointment to the Cultural Council-Patrick Angland

Patrick Angland was invited to the table to review his interest and qualifications.

A motion was made by Councilor Hackett to forward measure 14 110-Appointment to the Cultural Council-Patrick Angland to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Haugh. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

14 111-Appointment to the Cultural Council-Charlotte Champagne

Charlotte Champagne was invited to the table to review her interest and qualifications.

A motion was made by Councilor Hackett to forward measure 14 111-Appointment to the Cultural Council-Charlotte Champagne to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Haugh. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

14 108-Authorization to Include Retiree Health Care Costs in Determining Net School Spending Compliance

CFO McKinney reviewed the measure with Mayor Kay. Mr. McKinney noted that the Council over the last few years has advocated for the state to authorize legislation to change the manner in which communities were allowed to include retiree health care costs in determining spending compliance with NSS. Weymouth is one of 40% of the communities that were not previously allowed to include these costs. Now the legislation has enacted the change and Weymouth will be allowed to count this fractionally beginning in FY16. The law requires each community to opt in to adopt.

(At 6:37 PM during this discussion, Vice Chairman O'Connor arrived.)

Councilor Hackett asked if the School Committee is required to take any action. Mr. McKinney responded no; it is a local option item. The process does not require a public hearing; as no money is being appropriated. Councilor Hackett asked if there is a deadline by which the town is required to take action. Mayor Kay responded per Roger Hatch that a vote must occur before June 1, 2015. Councilor Haugh asked if there are any disadvantages to opting in. Mr. McKinney responded that the town was at a disadvantage by not having been able to count these costs in the equation. This provides a level playing field to compare communities for compliance issues. Mayor Kay noted that non-performing communities may not be allowed, this is an incentive.

Vice Chairman O'Connor noted he supports and worked on changing the legislation in Senator Hedlund's office. He reviewed the history. It can't be ignored as part of the contribution to the budget. He notes that although the town is catching up, this won't alter the amount of the funds allocated to education- he emphasized this is not to be viewed as an offset. While the number will be there for NSS, it will be taken out to deliberate the school budget.

Councilor Haugh noted that Weymouth stands 17th from the bottom in NSS; she presumes that the other communities in similar standing will likewise vote to opt in so that Weymouth will still be in poor standing. She hopes that revenue can be located to bump up the schools.

Councilor McDonald asked if there is urgency for the town to take same night action. He would prefer to delay a vote until public comment. A public hearing is not required. Mayor Kay and CFO McKinney responded that there is no urgency.

Councilor Hackett echoed Councilor O'Connor comments. NSS has been manipulated for the last several years to advocate for additional money for the schools; by closing the gap, the rallying cry is diminished. There is some concern with that. The Town Council has committed to providing the best educational experience regardless of what arbitrary state statistics comes out. This is a comparative tool used at a state level-- and is used by parents for comparison to buy a home in a community, so it supports property values. She is not opposed to hearing from the public and is ready to support this. The Mayor responded that there will always be a catch phrase. This does not mean the town will cut the amount and the town will not look to meet or not meet NSS, but providing an educational value. The town is adopting something that will serve to correct an inequity.

Councilor Haugh asked if this is something that the superintendent or school committee wants? Lisa Belmarsh of the school committee responded that it is included on the next committee meeting for discussion but it is difficult to argue against something that would put all communities on an even ground.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman O'Connor to forward measure 14 108-Authorization to Include Retiree Health Care Costs in Determining Net School Spending Compliance, to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Haugh.

A substitute motion was made by Councilor McDonald to table action on measure 14 108-Authorization to Include Retiree Health Care Costs in Determining Net School Spending Compliance, to until a time after the School Committee has reviewed and was seconded by Councilor Hackett. Vice Chairman O'Connor responded that he has no problem with waiting; he supports the measure. Councilor Haugh withdrew her second on the initial motion. Councilor Hackett noted she also supports the measure, but is willing to give the School Committee time to review, but urged that the committee also keep the budget process and timeline in mind. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

14 105-General Government Supplemental FY15 Supplemental Budget Appropriation

CFO McKinney presented the measure. He reported the source of funding is from Southfield revenue and he reviewed where the funds are to be appropriated.

Councilor Haugh noted she is concerned with taking action when there are still funds for the Traffic Supervisors that has to be transferred to the Weymouth Police Department budget. CFO McKinney reported that those funds will be appropriated from free cash once it is certified.

Vice Chairman O'Connor asked about the time frame. CFO McKinney responded that this measure must be voted by the December 1, 2014 Council meeting in order to vote the tax shift. Mayor Kay responded that she is comfortable with Southfield making its tax payment, and she has seen site plans for a new development and a new parcel for Southfield, and does not believe they will jeopardize development, but she is comfortable with waiting to vote it until the December 1st Council meeting. Councilor Hackett asked if the school department could share how they will utilize the funds. The Mayor noted it was a way to increase the school budget; it covers the cost of six months of transportation costs that were not budgeted plus \$200,000.

A motion was made by Vice Chair O'Connor to table measure 14 105-General Government Supplemental FY15 Budget Appropriation to a time following the close of the public hearing and the next meeting of the Budget/Management Committee, and was seconded by Councilor Haugh. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:02 PM; there being no further business, a MOTION was made by Councilor Hackett 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 15 December 2014