

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Joint Budget/Management and Ordinance Committee
December 7, 2015-Monday

Budget/Management Committee

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

Absent: Jane Hackett, Councilor

Ordinance Committee

Present: Ken DiFazio, Chairman
Michael Smart, Vice Chairman
Arthur Mathews, Councilor
Patrick O'Connor, Councilor

Absent: Jane Hackett, Councilor

Also Present: Carolyn Murray, Interim Town Solicitor
Richard Swanson, Auditor
Keith Stark, Chief Weymouth Fire Dept.
Mickey McGonagle, Interim Business Mgr., School Dept.

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chairman Molisse called the Budget/Management Committee meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

15 134-Fire Department Overtime from Free Cash

Chief Stark presented the request for \$330,000 to supplement the department's overtime account. The current staffing level stands at 87 members. The department's overtime account was funded at \$545,000; balance is \$140,000 as of November 30, 2015. The department averages \$18,700 overtime weekly. The addition from free cash will bring the account to \$875,000. The department is down six positions this year; three from the start of the year and three more since due to retirements. The Chief just received a resignation that will bring the total to seven. The department is currently hiring five new members who will be out of the academy in March to help cover shifts vacant due to illness and vacations. Hiring process will begin again to fill the remaining two positions; the hiring was initially delayed because of the override consideration. The SAFER grant expires the end of this fiscal year and the positions covered by it will have to be absorbed into the department's operating budget going forward. This year the department has lost shift time to the following circumstances:

<u>Shifts</u>	<u>Reason for Loss</u>
136	long-term illness- one returned; two still out
285	seven work-related injuries- four returned; three still out
130	FMLA leaves- mostly younger members with new children
157	incidental sick time use

Auditor Swanson reported that he reviewed the MUNIS data, and he expects if the overtime tracking continues, the supplemental funding will cushion the department with a \$35,000 reserve for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Vice Chairman asked if there is a range for overtime. Mr. Stark reported as to what affects the overtime (vacations around holidays, high FMLA usage) the new hires will allow him to fill vacation/sick slots and then he reviewed the manning of seventeen for each group. He reviewed the weekly usage; some weeks were higher because the department had to cover for training (that was reimbursed by a state grant). He noted that the union has had a 13% increase in salary over the last six years in collective bargaining that was not matched by an increase in his budget. It costs more to hire shifts on overtime, but there is a break even point. Vice Chairman O'Connor asked him to provide particulars for this at the public hearing.

Chairman Molisse reported that a public hearing is scheduled for the measure on December 21, 2015.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman O'Connor to forward measure 15 134 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action (pending public hearing) and was seconded by Councilor Haugh. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Chairman DiFazio called the Ordinance Committee to order at 6:49

15 131 -Request to Enter into 5-Year School Bus Transportation Contract

Mickey McGonagle, Interim Business Manager for the school department, presented the request. Superintendent Salim is out of state. Mr. McGonagle provided background on the school transportation contract. Less than a decade ago, the number one and two contractors merged (Laidlaw and First Student). Since then, there has been little competition. By extending the contract terms from three to five years, they hope to be able to attract some competitive bidding, while allowing the contractor to amortize costs.

Chairman Molisse asked about the competition after the merger. Mr. McGonagle noted that there are some mid-size and smaller vendors who focus on single towns. Vice Chairman O'Connor asked if there is a de-escalation / escalation clause in the contract for fuel cost.

Auditor Swanson reported that he reviewed Chapter 30B, Section 12, and the measure aligns as long as certain items are included in the solicitation and it is voted affirmatively by a two-thirds vote of Council. Councilor Mathews asked if this is the practice with all service contracts under 30B-was the extension for the trash contract subject to approval by the legislative body? Ms. Murray responded that the solid waste contract is one of the 35

exceptions noted in 30B. Vice Chairman Smart asked if it is subject to a public hearing. Ms. Murray responded that it does not require public hearing.

Chairman DiFazio noted that the ability to amortize costs over the longer period could allow smaller contractors to purchase equipment to provide the service. Vice Chairman O'Connor noted that providing some competition might cause the current vendor to sharpen pencils and provide better terms. Chairman DiFazio led a brief discussion of the five-year term and whether it should continue after the initial five years is up. Ms. Murray responded that they could frame the vote question so that it is either limited or flexible, but there is no harm revisiting the contract term when the first time expires. Chairman DiFazio responded that the committee would have to make it clear in their recommendation to the full Town Council. Councilor Haugh noted that the ambulance contract has a 60-day written termination notice and she asked if the bus transportation contract has a similar provision. Mr. McGonagle responded that there is not; only the school cafeteria contract has a 60-day termination provision.

Councilor McDonald asked if any surrounding towns provide their own transportation. Mr. McGonagle responded that Braintree, Hingham and Scituate do. Councilor McDonald asked how many hours a week the drivers work, and do any work enough hours to be eligible for benefits. Mr. McGonagle responded that they work 25 hours per week.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, a motion was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward measure 15 115 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor McDonald. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

On behalf of the Ordinance Committee, a motion was made by Vice Chairman Smart to forward measure 15 115 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Adjournment

At 7:08 PM, there being no further business, a motion was made by Councilor McDonald to adjourn the Budget/Management Committee meeting and was seconded by Councilor Haugh. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

At 7:08 PM, there being no further business, a motion was made by Vice Chairman Smart to adjourn the Ordinance Committee meeting and was seconded by Councilor Haugh. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Councilor Michael Molisse, chair Budget/Management Committee

Approved by Kenneth DiFazio, chair of the Ordinance Committee