

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Weymouth Town Hall
Council Chambers
March 20, 2017, Monday**

Present: Michael Smart, Vice President
Robert Conlon, Councilor
Kenneth DiFazio, Councilor
Jane Hackett, Councilor
Ed Harrington, Councilor
Rebecca Haugh, Councilor
Arthur Mathews, Councilor
Brian McDonald, Councilor
Michael Molisse, Councilor

Absent: Patrick O'Connor, President
Thomas J. Lacey, Councilor

Also Present: Brian Connolly, Chief Financial Officer
Kathleen Deree, Town Clerk
Joseph Callanan, Town Solicitor
John MacLeod, Director of Asset Management

Recording Secretary: Janet Murray

Vice President Smart called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Town Clerk Kathleen Deree called the roll, with two members absent, Councilors O'Connor and Lacey, who are unable to attend this evening's meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

MINUTES

Budget/Management Committee Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2017

A Motion was made by Councilor Mathews to approve the minutes from the February 21, 2017 Budget/Management Committee meeting and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Town Council Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2017

A Motion was made by Councilor Mathews to approve the minutes from the February 21, 2017 Town Council Meeting and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

17-015 - Transfer of Unexpended Bond Funds

Councilor Mathews motioned to open the public hearing on measure 17 009, noting that it was published on March 10, 2017, motion seconded by Councilor Molisse and voted unanimously.

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Brian Connolly requests, on behalf of the Mayor, that unexpended bond proceeds totaling \$97,868.65 from the general obligation municipal purpose loan of 2008 bonds, dated September 15, 2008, originally borrowed for lagoon projects under loan order number 07 054 of the Town Council, approved by the Mayor on October 19, 2007, which project is complete and for which no liability remains, are hereby re-appropriated for the purpose of providing additional funds for school building chillers originally authorized under loan order 06 043-school remodeling of the Town Council approved by the Mayor on June 21, 2006.

John McLeod gave an overview to the Council regarding the need for this re-appropriation. He stated that in 2004 this chiller was installed in the gold portion of the high school and it services 60-70% of the building.

In the spring of 2015 after multiple snow storms, the roof was cleared and the compressors were found to be damaged. Repairs were made to get it to 50% efficiency. This chiller services the Child Care wing and the gold classrooms. This funding will provide for the replacement of the entire unit which was estimated in 2015 to cost approximately \$150,000.

Councilor Hackett noted that the measure is actually an amendment. There is \$58,000 in an unexpended school bond. This measure is re-appropriating money from a water bond which has a balance of \$97,000. She further noted that if the chiller were only \$57,000, there would be no request but since it costs more, this measure is necessary.

Councilor Mathews asked about using water enterprise funds.

Mr. Connolly noted that it is a general government fund not water enterprise bond and was reviewed with bond counsel.

The following were the comments from the public:

A resident from Hewett Road asked if the funds will be immediately available once this measure is approved.

Mr. Connolly stated that the timeline is about ten (10) days.

Mr. McLeod stated that some engineering work needs to be done. Either an RFP or IFB will be needed to procure a contractor as the contract is in excess of \$100,000. The process to complete this project will begin once approval is received-- with the project done before the end of the school year.

A motion was made by Councilor Matthew to close the public hearing on 17 015, motion seconded by Councilor Molisse and voted unanimously.

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COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR, TOWN OFFICERS, AND TOWN BOARDS

Mr. Connolly submitted the Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2018-2022. He added that they are still waiting on snow deficit information and refunding items, and debt bonding situations. A more complete packet will be available in the next few weeks.

Councilor Mathews made a motion to refer the Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2018-2022 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

17 018 - Reappointment to the Waterfront Committee – George Mutch

Councilor Mathews made a motion to refer Measure 17 018 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

17 019 - Reappointment to the Recreation Commission – Arthur DelRosso

Councilor Mathews made a motion to refer Measure 17 015 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

17 020 - Appointment to the Community Events Committee – Jason Thayer

Councilor Mathews made a motion to refer Measure 17 020 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Budget/Management Committee Chairman – Michael Molisse

Councilor Molisse stated that the Budget/Management Committee met this evening at 6pm and discussed the following four (4) items:

17 011 - Fiscal Year 2016 Audited Financial Statements & Management Letter

Frank Biron and Erica Lussier of Melanson Heath reviewed the Financial Statements and Management Letter which had been discussed at the earlier Budget/Management Committee meeting.

Ms. Lussier stated that the town received a clean opinion this year which is the best opinion that can be received. She summarized the financial statements for the Councilors.

Councilor Hackett pointed out that the \$6.2 million was for one-time items not recurring expenses.

Councilor Conlon questioned funding of Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) in other municipalities.

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Mr. Biron noted that for OPEB, the trust fund is step one and funding it is step two. He noted that not many municipalities are able to fully fund this liability. It is getting more attention now that it must be reported.

Councilor DiFazio noted that on the pension side, Weymouth manages its own retirement fund. Mr. Biron stated that not all towns manage their own pensions.

Mr. Biron stated that Weymouth's pension is 62% funded/38% unfunded, which is average to good in comparison to other pensions.

Councilor Harrington asked if monitoring the situation is sufficient or if more action is required of the town.

Mr. Biron stated that the town needs to make sure that all assumptions in determination of liabilities are reasonable. He noted that consultants are available to assist in addressing the pension issue.

Councilor Conlon asked what percentage the employees pay into the pension. Mr. Biron noted that it is between 12-20%.

Councilor Hackett clarified that the pension is income and OPEB is health insurance. She also pointed out that retirees receive the same health insurance as current employees. Efforts have been made to reduce the liability as well as make financial contributions.

Mr. Biron stated that this year's Management letter is more of a follow up to prior year comments. It includes recommendations for improvement.

He stated that the town needs to be more aggressive in placing liens for back taxes. The town is 2-3 years' delinquent in doing this. Placing liens protects receivables.

Councilor DiFazio asked how this comment compares to other municipalities.

Mr. Biron stated that the town had been more aggressive in the past in these efforts.

Solicitor Callanan stated that foreclosing on a property is more difficult. His department is in the process of updating the process to place liens onto delinquent properties.

Councilor Molisse reported that this measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on March 6, 2017, the committee met this evening, March 20, 2017, and voted unanimous favorable action. He motioned on behalf of the Budget/Management Committee for favorable action, motion seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously.

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17 015 – Transfer of Unexpended Bond Funds

Mr. Connolly reviewed the measure.

He requests, on behalf of the Mayor, that unexpended bond proceeds totaling \$97,868.65 from line item 33300005 500000 to fund line item 31250005 500000, originally borrowed for lagoon projects under loan order number 07 054 of the Town Council, approved by the Mayor on October 19, 2007, which project is complete and for which no liability remains, are hereby re-appropriated for the purpose of providing additional funds for school building chillers originally authorized under loan order 06 043-school remodeling of the Town Council approved by the Mayor on June 21, 2006.

Councilor Molisse stated that the Budget/Management Committee voted no recommendation as they were waiting for more information which was received during this evening's public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilor Hackett for favorable action on measure 07 015, as amended, motion was seconded by Councilor Molisse and unanimously voted.

17 016 – Reappointment to the Housing Authority – Joyce Jung

Councilor Molisse reported that this was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on February 21, 2017, the committee met this evening, March 20, 2017, and voted unanimous favorable action. He motioned on behalf of the Budget/Management Committee for favorable action, motion seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously.

17 017 – Police Department Line Item Transfer

Councilor Molisse reported that this measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on March 6, 2017, the committee met this evening, March 20, 2017, and voted unanimous favorable action. He motioned for favorable action on behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, to transfer \$340,000 from numerous salary accounts for the purpose of covering the Police Department's projected overtime expenses, motion seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the Town Council is scheduled for March 27, 2017.

At 8:20 PM, there being no further business, a motion was made by Councilor Mathews to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by Janet Murray as Recording Secretary

Approved by Patrick O'Connor as Town Council President
Voted unanimously on 18 April 2017