

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
May 24, 2017, Wednesday**

Present: Michael Molisse, Chairman
Jane Hackett, Councilor
Brian McDonald, Councilor

Absent: Patrick O'Connor, Vice Chairman
Rebecca Haugh, Councilor

Also Present: Ted Langill, Chief of Staff
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
Joseph Callanan, Town Solicitor
Kathleen Deree, Town Clerk
Mary Ellen Schloss, Conservation Commissioner
Chip Fontaine, DPW
Robert Luongo, Director of Planning
Richard Grimes, Chief, Police Department
Jen Curtis-Whipple, Superintendent, WPS
Brett Lindholm-IT Director, WPS

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chairman Molisse called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

17 037-Appointment to the Board of Registrars-James Boddie

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on May 15, 2017. Mr. Boddie was invited to the table to review his interest and qualifications. Councilors Hackett and McDonald enthusiastically supported this measure.

A motion was made by Councilor Hackett to forward measure 17 037 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor McDonald. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

17 058-CPC Funding-Puritan Road Flood Mitigation

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on May 15, 2017. Chip Fontaine and Robert Luongo were invited to review the project. Mr. Fontaine noted the culvert would be under the existing roadway through Great Esker. The current culvert is in serious need of repair. This is the final request for funding to complete the project and construction will be complete this year. CPC will provide 25% match against 75% Coastal Zone Management grant funding. This is the third and final phase, and the most expensive. Total cost estimates for contractor, support and contingencies is \$530,000,

split between entities. The project was voted favorably at the last Community Preservation Committee Meeting.

Councilor Hackett noted the unreserved fund balance is getting low. She asked if it is eligible under Retained Earnings. Mr. Luongo responded that this falls under the recreational category of CPC. CPC funds were tapped for the feasibility study as well. Many communities budget their funds in their entirety during the budget process. Weymouth uses the funds as a project comes up instead and gives the town more flexibility to deal with unanticipated projects. Councilor Hackett noted there is a lot of money in Retained Earnings that is not earmarked at this time- far more significant than in the CPC.

A motion was made by Councilor Hackett to forward measure 17 058 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor McDonald. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

17 063-Free Cash for Herring Passage and Smelt Habitat Restoration Project

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on May 15, 2017. Conservation Commissioner Mary Ellen Schloss and Chip Fontaine presented the measure. There were fish kills in the past, and the gate was installed to keep fish from entering the tunnel. Commission of Marine Fisheries provided the major funding to develop a design, which is currently in the permitting process. The cost estimate for construction is \$600,000 at this time. Grant funding was sought but it doesn't fit the available programs. This will be coordinated with the Lovell project as much as it can. Work may begin next July if permitting and funding fall into place. (It has to be worked around the herring run schedule.) More information will be provided on permitting and construction sequence.

Councilor Hackett asked if it could have been funded from Retained Earnings. During the Conservation Commission meeting for Lovell Field project, she was uncomfortable with Conservation negotiating in public and the discussion that took place then.

A Motion was made by Councilor Hackett to forward measure 17 063 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor McDonald. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

17 059-Legal Department Line Item Transfer/Supplement Appropriation Request

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on May 15, 2017. Ted Langill and Solicitor Callanan provided the review of the measure. Atty. Callanan requested a \$50K transfer within the department, since there are no expected judgments. Funds are still needed to supplement the legal action against the proposed compressor station.

A Motion was made by Councilor Hackett to forward measure 17 059 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor McDonald. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

17 064-Free Cash for OPEB Trust Fund

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on May 15, 2017. The request is for \$200K to be transferred to the OPEB Trust. It will bring the current balance to over \$3.1 million.

A motion was made by Councilor Hackett to forward measure 17 064 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor McDonald. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

17 067-Free Cash for Police Body Armor and Security Upgrades

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on May 15, 2017. Chief of Staff Ted Langill and Chief Grimes presented the measure for \$160,000 for body armor and upgrading access and security at the Police Station. These are on the FY18 Capital Plan and it is part of a multi-year phased purchase and build-out of the security monitoring for the building.

A motion was made by Councilor Hackett to forward measure 17 067 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor McDonald. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

17 074-Reorganization of the Police Department Services Section to Transfer School Traffic Supervisors to the School Department

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on May 15, 2017. Ted Langill reported that as part of the CBA settlement with the union, it was agreed to remove the oversight by the Chief from the code of ordinances. This measure reflects what was agreed to in the 3-year contract-which was settled. A single line item in the budget -\$89,000- will be transferred to the School Department.

Councilor Hackett asked if the language is a reorganization. Mr. Langill responded no.

Chairman Molisse asked to hear from the school department. Supt. Curtis-Whipple was invited to the table. She noted this is a crucial school department function and she supports the measure. The unit would fall under the transportation department. When the function was cut from the police department, the school department replaced them with a similar function.

Councilor Hackett asked if there will be any noticeable change to uniform. Mr. Langill responded no. The Mayor supports the request. Chief Grimes noted when they returned to the police they had good visibility. They want to restore the wearing of badges and patches and the police had no opposition. One of the advantages is that the line of communication between the unit and schools during absences is key- police do not have the resources to man absent positions. In the event of an absence, the notification will be to the transportation manager and the school building principal.

Councilor McDonald noted the uniform establishes a presence to the public and he supports it.

Chairman Molisse noted that they are in public safety and there is a huge liability. When he researched it, most cities and towns maintain the department through the police. If a teacher is directing traffic it presents a liability to the town. The whole program needs to be revamped and he strongly believes that they belong in public safety.

Counselor Callanan noted the town liability does not matter whether they report to the chief or the superintendent; the liability isn't greater. The problem is that absences reported to police rather than schools is less likely to have coverage.

Councilor Molisse responded that a teacher directing traffic when it isn't in the job description is a huge liability. Atty. Callanan noted the likelihood that a teacher who isn't qualified is better than no one. Chairman Molisse responded that if a teacher is out there and it isn't in their job description it is not.

Councilor Hackett noted that this has been in discussion for years. This is a unique group of committed people who do a very good job. It is important that they are safe and that they keep children safe, whichever department they are housed under. This group deserves respect and deserves this to be settled and not become an annual discussion.

A motion was made by Councilor Hackett to forward measure 17 074 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor McDonald. It is scheduled for public hearing on June 5, 2017 and the traffic supervisors may speak then. Mr. Langill responded that compensation was a part of the CBA- this is not an arbitrary or forced decision that was arrived at after several months of collective bargaining. Councilor Hackett withdrew her motion. She asked if there was a financial component to the agreement. This is the implementation of a collective agreement. She asked what would happen if it were denied? Councilor McDonald asked to keep this in committee until he can review the contract. The last paragraph of the MOA was read by Mr. Langill.

No Action was taken at this time.

17 066-Free Cash for School IT

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on May 15, 2017. Ted Langill, Supt. Curtis-Whipple and Brett Lindholm-School IT Director, presented the

proposal. They noted that this is the second year of a 5-year plan. The funds will be used to support infrastructure and the devices necessary for state testing.

A motion was made by Councilor Hackett to forward measure 17 066 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor McDonald. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

17 069-Free Cash for Voting Machines and Booths

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on May 15, 2017. Town Clerk Kathy Deree and Ted Langill presented the measure; for 20 machines (includes two backups). These are easier to transport and the current machines are outdated.

A Motion was made by Councilor Hackett to forward measure 17 069 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor McDonald. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

17 073-Reserve Fund Transfer-Town Clerk

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on May 15, 2017. Town Clerk Kathy Deree requested funds to cover the special election, CBA settlement and overtime.

A Motion was made by Councilor Hackett to forward measure 17 073 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor McDonald. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:58 PM, there being no further business, a MOTION was made by Councilor Hackett to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor McDonald. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary.

Approved by Michael Molisse, Chair of Budget/Management Committee

Approved unanimously on 5 September 2017