

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
May 31, 2017, Wednesday**

Present: Michael Molisse, Chairman
Rebecca Haugh, Councilor
Brian McDonald, Councilor

Absent: Jane Hackett, Councilor
Patrick O'Connor, Vice Chairman

Also Present: Ted Langill, Chief of Staff
Brian Connolly, Chief Financial Officer
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
Keith Stark, Chief, Weymouth Fire Department
Rob McLean, Library Director
John MacLeod, Director of Asset Management
Chip Fontaine, Town Engineer

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chairman Molisse called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

17 060-Free Cash for Commercial Street Bridge Replacement Project

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on May 15, 2017. Chip Fontaine presented the measure and reviewed the scope of the project. A competitive grant was received for band-aid repairs. A consultant was hired who worked with Nick Bulens. Construction is estimated at \$586,000 to \$1,000,000. This request is for \$500,000 from free cash.

Auditor Swanson verified the free cash balance available.

A motion was made by Councilor Haugh to forward measure 17 060 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor McDonald. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

17 068-Free Cash for Multi-Purpose Tractor with Mower and Snow Plow was

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on May 15, 2017. Chip Fontaine presented the measure and provided a memo and handout from Director Connell that outlines the purchase, the existing equipment and explained uses of the proposed equipment. It is #25 on the Capital Improvement Plan. Although the item in CIP calls for two pieces, the measure seeks to replace one only at this time.

Auditor Swanson confirmed the CIP item and the cost estimates. Vice Chairman Smart asked the status of the existing piece. Mr. Fontaine responded that they may keep it for

spare parts. Councilor Haugh asked how long it will take to obtain the equipment. Mr. Fontaine responded that it should be about a month.

A motion was made by Councilor Haugh to forward measure 17 068 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor McDonald. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

17 061-Free Cash for Council Chamber Upgrades

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on May 15, 2017. John MacLeod and Chief of Staff Langill presented the measure seeking \$25,000 for upgrades to council chambers. Work will include painting walls and ceiling and refinishing the floor. The balance in the waterproofing project will take care of the window repairs and difference in cost estimates, which are a few years old.

Auditor Swanson brought to the committee's attention that the item is #3 on the CIP and not #1 as it is listed on the measure, which will require a correction.

Councilor Haugh asked if they anticipate having to request additional funding from free cash. Mr. Langill responded no. Councilor Haugh also asked that they consider how to balance portraits on the wall in back of the Council.

A motion was made by Councilor Haugh to forward measure 17 061 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor McDonald. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

17 065-Free Cash for Streetlight Audit

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on May 15, 2017. Mr. MacLeod reviewed the measure; for several months the town has discussed street lighting with National Grid to retrofit all streetlights in town with LED's at a cost of \$1 each under a MAPC grant program administered by National Grid. The town will see a significant savings through upgrading. There are 3,720 lights in town. The total cost of the upgrade will be \$1.06 million. Administration is seeking \$50,000 for the engineering audit. (This is a consortium contract with Milton, Weymouth and Dracut.) Mr. MacLeod reviewed the costs and anticipated savings which could annually net \$280,000.

Auditor Swanson provided some clarification to the bidding process. The bid was awarded to the most qualified candidate, who also happened to be the lowest bidder.

Councilor Haugh asked how many other towns have already participated? Weymouth is one of eighteen.

A motion was made by Councilor Haugh to forward measure 17 065 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action. VOTED 2/0, with one recusal (Councilor Molisse).

17 070-Free Cash for WHS Expansion Joints

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on May 15, 2017. Mr. MacLeod presented the request seeking \$325,000 from free cash to fund the costs of replacing the expansion joints at WHS. Backup documentation was provided. In October 2016 a heating pipe let go in the Gold building at the high school. Water under high volume pressure was released. The staff on site shut the system down but gallons were released into the building and caused damage. This is a system that uses glycol. Lines run outside the building. The town's insurance carrier agreed to repairs. Cleanup was done and repairs to insulation and sheetrock completed. When Dr. Whipple reviewed with staff, it was discovered that more than twenty expansion joints had been replaced with rigid- at the direction of then Director of Maintenance Comerford. They also found there were other issues that should have been addressed when the school was built. The town brought in an engineering firm to review and the recommendation that came back was to revert back to the expansion joints. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$480,000 including engineering. They will go out to bid over the summer and complete the repairs before the start of the heating season.

Councilor Haugh asked if this spending would be eligible against Net School Spending requirements. Mr. Langill responded no.

Councilor McDonald asked how much of this work is covered by insurance? Mr. Langill responded that there was \$460,000 in damages. This work will ensure it doesn't happen again- there are more than twenty of the joints in the building.

A motion was made by Councilor Haugh to forward measure 17 070 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor McDonald. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

17 062-Free Cash for Fire Station 1

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on May 15, 2017. John MacLeod presented the measure with Chief of Staff Langill and provided additional backup to the committee. There are several issues with the building including cracked walls, floor drains, etc. The town brought in an engineering firm that deemed that the building was safe, but it requires some repairs to improve living and working conditions for the fire staff which it houses 24 hours, 365 days a year. He reviewed the most pressing repairs that the \$200,000 request will cover. Total estimated costs for the items is \$280,000. The chimney needs to be re- pointed and stabilized, the roof leaks addressed, the floor drain, shower pan, and replacement of the generator.

Chairman Molisse noted that this was discussed when the subject of an override was deliberated. He asked if this will salvage the building. Mr. MacLeod responded that it is a step in the right direction. A new building would cost in the \$6 million range. This will improve conditions without spending too much on a building that may eventually be replaced. Chief Stark reported that the men who work there daily have brought their concerns forward; he noted that it is a matter of quality of life conditions.

Councilor Haugh noted while she loves to see all these improvements, she agrees with Chairman Molisse. This amount of money could be first year debt payment on a new building. She asked how many years it will buy and how much of the needs list will be addressed with this funding. Mr. MacLeod responded that they will prioritize the repairs and complete as many as possible.

Councilor McDonald noted the best-case plan would be to build a new station now and currently they are dealing with worst-case. He asked how long before they will have to have a new building? Chief Stark responded that they could be creative, noting that the other end of town could perhaps help out. Mr. MacLeod responded that the majority of the renovations are long-term fixes. Some of the less pressing items might be covered from his budget.

Councilor Haugh asked if there are any state programs to help fund the work, such as public safety? The administration investigated this, but couldn't find anything. Mr. MacLeod noted that obtaining municipal grants, outside of school items is difficult.

A motion was made by Councilor Haugh to forward measure 17 062 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor McDonald. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

17 071-Reserve Fund Transfer-Libraries

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on May 15, 2017. Mr. Langill reported the measure was amended-to increase the library amount by \$2500 to \$5000 for maintenance overtime, \$8000 for the library elevator, for total of \$13,000. Director McLean reported that these were special circumstances; one was custodial overtime due to sick time and a vacated position. This request will take care of the current deficit and get them through to June 30, 2017. The latter portion is being requested for elevator maintenance. The elevator failed inspection and the list of repairs was just under \$7900. Repairs have been made and the elevator has successfully passed inspection.

Councilor Haugh asked if they need an amended measure to revise the amount? Chief of Staff Langill noted that they could vote as amended and he will provide the amended measure as a follow-up.

A motion was made by Councilor Haugh to forward measure 17 071, as amended, to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor McDonald. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

17 072-Reserve Fund Transfer-Salary Reserve

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on May 15, 2017. Mr. Langill reported that the purpose of this measure is to create a reserve to cover the impact of fund settlements for the unions that haven't yet settled. There is a month remaining in the fiscal year and three of the larger unions haven't settled as of yet, but he hopes to

before June 30th. It doesn't limit what can be spent on settlements, but it will go towards whatever the settlement might be.

Councilor Haugh asked what happens to funds that are transferred but might not be needed. Mr. Langill responded that it would have to be transferred back out.

A motion was made by Councilor Haugh to forward measure 17 072 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor McDonald. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

17 075-Reserve Fund Transfer-General Fund

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on May 15, 2017. Mr. Langill reviewed the request for \$62,340 to provide for interest and debt expenses in the enterprise funds. There was a water/sewer project which was overlooked on the schedule so the debt was underfunded. This is to correct that so there isn't a deficit in the enterprise fund.

Auditor Swanson reported that he reviewed, and agrees with the calculation and the action to be taken.

A motion was made by Councilor Haugh to forward measure 17 075 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor McDonald. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:57 PM, there being no further business, a MOTION was made by Councilor Haugh to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor McDonald. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary.

Approved by Councilor Michael Molisse as Chair of Budget/Management

Voted unanimously on 5 September 2017