

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
Town Hall Council Chambers  
May 8, 2017, Monday**

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

Also Present: Brian Connolly, Chief Financial Officer  
Ted Langill, Chief of Staff  
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor  
Keith Stark, Chief, Weymouth Fire Department

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chairman Molisse called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**Review and Discuss Fire Department Budget with Department Heads and Administration, Chief of Fire and applicable senior staff**

Deliberate the following measure:

**17 025M-Fire Department**

Chief Stark and Chief of Staff Langill reviewed the Fire Department proposed FY18 budget in PowerPoint presentation. Current roster is comprised of 92 members. The budget includes all step raises, although collective bargaining is still in negotiations with the union. The proposed budget is an increase of one member. The department anticipates filling the 3 open positions July 5<sup>th</sup>, after anticipated retirements are complete. Phone and IT budget reflects the offset to the IT consolidation. The remaining IT funds will be used to pay for hard lines and dispatch. Several grants have been applied for including the SAFER grant to cover 5 firefighter positions. Any grant funding will be utilized to increase the number of members. A measure will seek to transfer unused salary to the overtime account to cover OT for vacations, etc. The sick leave incentive and retirement payouts were discussed. The status of the department's gear and equipment was reviewed. Chief Stark reviewed the gas policy, vehicle systems, building maintenance – systems and structure and the training, radio repairs, system and operations, hotspots, Kingfisher and 911 monitoring were all reviewed.

Vice Chairman O'Connor asked about the number of runs made to Union Point in 2017, and the SAFER grant schedule. Chief Stark did not have this year's numbers available but the runs have increased. He has been discussing this with administration to provide adequate coverage. They apply for SAFER in February, and will know results in 6 months; then they would have to go through the hiring process. They discussed the

capital needs of the department, including the conditions and needs of the headquarters and station buildings.

Councilor Haugh asked if the SAFER grants will decrease the overtime. The Chief responded that the affect will be more noticeable in FY19. Councilor Haugh also asked about the use of Narcan and the effect on the overdose death rate. Chief Stark will provide the numbers and also noted the department takes the issue of the disease seriously.

Chairman Molisse asked about the training schedule for new hires and how the equipment is holding up. The Chief responded that a new truck is due to be delivered in August. The discussion included vehicle lease programs.

Vote out the following measure:

**17 012-Authorization to Participate in the Plymouth County OPEB Trust Program (PCOT)**

Chief Financial Officer, Connolly further explained the memo provided to the committee. The PCOT program was a result of a vetting process. One of the reasons for the PARS selection was that it offers a turnkey approach. Other companies provide the investment management side; they'll manage the funds but not provide the trust documents or the reporting complement. Weymouth can be represented with a seat on the board and will have some decision on how it is managed. They looked at who is out there and what the needs were, and PARS jumped out. They hope to see more competition in coming years as they don't like to deal with monopolies. Eventually they will see other vendors step up and offer the full spectrum. It will also depend on GASBY, which will determine the next set of rules. Looking elsewhere is not in the best interest of Weymouth. If they are not in compliance, it will have an effect on the rating review, and will affect bonding. If the vote is approved, the town will be in full compliance, but they can look at other companies going forward.

Vice Chairman O'Connor asked about the 30-day opt out. Their performance is better than the average. He gets that this is an approach. He understands the lack of competition and likes the fact that Weymouth may have a seat on the board. While he understands the questions raised, he is comfortable voting to support this measure.

Councilor McDonald noted that it's bizarre that as this is such a huge issue nationwide, that only one entity provides full spectrum; who else might provide that same palette of options. He was curious if everyone is under the same July 1st deadline? PARS must be overwhelmed with potential clients. He tried seeking out Plymouth County folks and what they considered before contracting with PARS, but it wasn't easy to research. Did any other companies offer full menu of services? He wonders what Plymouth, Scituate, and Hingham – what did they choose? Brian Connolly responded that some of the smaller towns manage their own, but he doesn't believe it is the way to go. It would require employee membership and then becomes a department by itself for administration and the investment. This is better option; which is outside the municipality, but still get

reporting, docs. Then there are hybrids that parcel out the segments. He was unable to find another company that does what PARS does. They own the space right now. Through their own hard work, diligence, they own the niche. They work with 1,100 communities across the country. Others aren't because of the cost-it is a master trust plan which is compliant in all fifty states. The program started in CA and was added by state since 2004. It's costly but is the only vendor in MA that provides the full service. A discount rate is guaranteed to go down if no trust is set up. The question of whether or not this will be tied to the bond rating? PARS is aggressively growing. He can't speak to why other agencies aren't offering the full service.

Councilor Haugh noted most reputable or bigger towns are enrolled in programs. She questions if the fees higher than others? Mr. Connolly stated that the rates are negotiated roughly; they are similar in other communities-it is a tiered structure. PARS negotiated their fees. A lot of cities have already opted in, and many set up subcommittees to vet the plan. The change in administration has helped to expose it to fresh eyes. Other communities are ahead of the curve and moved their processes faster by assigning it to a committee. Most fees are fixed and don't depend on the amount of the investment. She noted it has been discussed and it's time to enroll into a trust. Chairman Molisse agreed with moving this forward.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman O'Connor to forward measure 17 012 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Haugh. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 6:56 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 Michael Molisse-Budget/Management Chair

Unanimously approved on 10 August 2017