

Town Council Budget/Management Committee
August 4, 2014 @ 7:00 PM
Town Council Chambers

Present: Councilor Patrick O'Connor
Councilor Jane Hackett
Councilor Rebecca Haugh

Not Present: Chairman Michael Molisse
Councilor Brian McDonald

Also Present: James Clarke, Director of Planning
Walter Flynn, Chair of Community Preservation Committee
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor

Recording Secretary: Diane T. Hachey

Vice Chairman O'Connor called the Budget/Management Committee Meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

14 089-CDBG Authorization for 2014-2015

Mr. Clarke presented and noted that this is a request for approval of HUD grants totaling \$670,311, of which Weymouth's portion of the HOME Investment Partnership Grant is \$147,701. This is a consortium in conjunction with Braintree, Quincy and Milton.

The detailed budget breakdown is as follows:

20% (\$134,062) for grant administration of which a portion represents salaries for the Planner and Coordinator

15% (\$100,547) for public services which entail various projects such as Pond Plain Improvement handicap access, DPW street improvements, and several DPCD projects

(Councilor McDonald arrives here at 7:12 PM).

Mr. Clarke noted that the Idelwell program cannot be funded this year, Kenan Connell, Director of Public Works, will complete two of the streets and they are evaluating the remainder and will hold public hearings within the month.

Councilor Hackett motioned for favorable action on measure number 14 089-CDBG Authorization for 2014-2015, motion seconded by Councilor Haugh and voted unanimously.

14 090-Community Preservation Committee –First Church Meeting House

Vice Chair Patrick O'Connor noted that this request originated from First Church. They originally requested \$89,000, but not all of the scope of work qualified under CPC, and the amount agreed upon is \$71,042. This represents the costs inherent in restoration, reguilding, replacement, and preservation of the First Church Meeting House.

Mr. Clarke explained the 7 (seven) items at the Church, which qualify under the CPC/Historical Resources Fund:

Preservation of bible case, pulpit top, pulpit base, restoration of the steeple, reguilding of the weathervane, replacement of 3 (three) front doors, and preservation of the wooden pews.

The following items were requested, but didn't qualify under the CPC/Historical Resources guidelines for funding:

Painting of pews and flooring, scaffolding for painting of ceiling, sanctuary/choir section ceiling painting and repairs, and repair and painting of the foyer walls.

Councilor Hackett noted that the First Church can be compared to the Old North Street Church and that a legal opinion confirms that the town is on solid ground in terms of approving this measure, as the funding is intended for a secular reason, namely preservation and restoration of a historically significant building (church was built in 1833). She further clarified that this measure does not show bias, for or against, any specific faith.

The question was asked of Chairman Flynn if any organization can submit project requests to the CPC committee. Chairman Flynn confirmed that the submittal procedure is opened to all and is a rolling process, which does not go through the Mayor's Office, but through the Planning Department.

Auditor Swanson confirmed that the funding is available, according to Munis.

Councilor McDonald noted that as a direct abutter to the property, he can attest to its historical value and beauty, which serves as a important piece of American history.

Nancy Cameron, historian, and Thomas Wilburn, Board of Trustees at the First Church, were present and updated the committee as to the history of the establishment and the upcoming events planned at the Church:

- the building served as the town's initial meeting house
- John and Abigail Adams were married in 1764 at the church
- gunpowder used in the Revolutionary War was stored at the church
- an early reading of the Declaration of Independence was held at the church

The following events will take place on October 24, 25, 26:

-Friday, October 24, there will be a wedding re-enactment, which will be filmed by CSPAN-the festivities will start at the Abigail Adams House and will be followed by a reception

-Saturday, October 25, a symposium will be held followed by a coffee hour

-Sunday, October 27, a wreath laying will take place on the Reverend and Mrs. Smith's graves

Councilor Hackett motioned for favorable action on measure number 14 090-Community Preservation Committee-First Church Meeting House, motion seconded by Councilor Haugh, and voted unanimously.

With no further business to attend to, Councilor Hackett motioned to adjourn at 7:22 PM -motion seconded by Councilor Haugh and voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by: Diane T. Hachey

Approved by: Vice Chairman Patrick O'Connor