

BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF TOWN COUNCIL
Town Hall Council Chambers
February 3, 2014

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

Also Present: William McKinney, Chief Financial Officer
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
James Clarke, Director, DPCD
Mary Ellen Schloss, Conservation Commission Administrator
Rob MacLean, Library Director
Captain Joseph Comperchio, WPD
John MacLeod, Construction Supervisor
Sean Cleaves, Forest and Park Supervisor, Pond Meadow Park

Recording Secretary: Jody H. Lehrer

Chairman Molisse called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. He recognized Mr. Bill McKinney, Chief Financial Officer.

13 134 Free Cash

Mr. McKinney requested that the town raise and appropriate \$344,211 from free cash to be transferred to account 8352- the Special Purpose Stabilization Fund – Capital Projects.

Mr. Swanson confirmed that MUNIS figures are consistent with the figures reported by Mr. McKinney.

Councilor McDonald MOVED to approve the transfer to full Council. Councilor Haugh seconded. UNANIMOUSLY voted.

13 135 Reserve Fund Transfer Pension

Mr. McKinney requested that the town transfer \$2,300 from the reserve fund (program 132) to line item 11945555-517101 (Contributory Retirement) to fund costs associated with special pension payments for military service, noting that the balance in the reserve fund account is \$500,000.

Mr. Swanson confirmed that the balance in the fund is shown in MUNIS to be \$500,000.

Councilor McDonald MOVED to approve and Councilor Haugh seconded. UNANIMOUSLY voted.

13 136 CPC- Weymouth/Braintree Regional Recreation Conservation District

James Clarke, DPCD Director, and Sean Cleaves, Forest and Park Supervisor, Pond Meadow Park, addressed the committee and noted that funding of \$75,000 will be obtained from the CPC Fund – general reserve to pay for the costs of repair and improvements at the Weymouth – Braintree Regional Recreation Conservation District (“District”).

Mr. Clarke said the funds would be in two phases: one is a request for \$25,000 for trail repairs and the second for \$50,000- as an in-kind commitment to match a district application to the state.

Mr. Cleaves noted the \$25,000 from the two towns – totaling \$50,000 –would be used to repair about 900 feet of the existing, paved bike and walking path at Pond Meadow Park. The second request for the \$50,000 – also by both towns – would be as part of matching grant application.

Mr. Cleaves stated that Braintree’s CPC had approved such funds and that the measure was scheduled to go to the Braintree Town Council the next day (February 4). The application to the state was also submitted but no response will be forthcoming until November.

The balance in Weymouth’s CPC Fund General Reserve is reported at \$297,375. Mr. Swanson confirmed that this was indeed the balance in the General Reserve fund.

Councilor McDonald MOVED to approve and Councilor Hackett seconded. UNANIMOUSLY voted.

13 137 CPC Fogg Library

Mr. Clarke spoke about seeking \$150,000 from the Community Preservation Fund-general reserve to pay for costs associated with repair and improvements at Fogg Library. Mr. Clarke introduced Mr. MacLean – Library Director - and Mr. MacLeod –Project Manager on the Fogg Library project.

Mr. Clarke noted that this is phase II of the project which is mainly interior work plus some site work. In 2010, Phase I involved the exterior repairs that amounted to approximately \$1.5 million dollars.

Among the needs for the requested funding at the Fogg Library are those associated with additional wall and ceiling plaster repair, a concrete retaining wall and cap between the building and the new parking lot, exterior lighting, HVAC piping, and more.

Mr. Clarke noted that funds for the library renovations, with total costs including those discussed above amounting to \$1,844,762, were derived from different sources. Funding has included Host Community Funds totaling \$600,000; Community Preservation Funds totaling \$610,000; and Community Development Block Grant Funds used for handicapped access totaling \$350,000. Also applied towards the project are \$150,000 from the Massachusetts Historical Commission and another \$50,000. Sidewalk Bond money amounted to \$150,000. Mr. MacLean noted that they are engaged in fundraising, which has successfully raised \$9,000.

Mr. MacLeod spoke about the additional work relating to plaster repair, the retaining wall, and the HVAC system work needing upgrading by expanding from two lines to four lines. He also spoke to refinishing the floors, and hearth support work at both ends of the building.

Mr. MacLean said there is money in the request to purchase faux oriental rugs to cover the refurbished floors, which will also serve to lessen echoes.

Additionally, with respect to the \$9,000 previously mentioned resultant from fundraising, that that was used to pay for project related work –landscaping. However, he said that actually they raised \$25,000 to pay for such things as children’s books, furnishing, and a bench for outside.

Mr. MacLean said he hopes to get into Fogg Library in two to three weeks and if weather cooperates that by the end of March there would be a “soft opening” and at the end of spring the town would have a big celebration marking the huge investment in “the best looking building in town.”

Mr. MacLeod clarified for the committee that there remains no issue with drainage for Old South Union Church and that water pooling has been eliminated on the property.

Mr. Swanson asked Mr. Clarke what he meant in his December 11 letter to Mayor Kay on CPC funds for Fogg Library by “funds to replace funds” from the sidewalk bond. Mr. Clarke said that when the original deduct was taken for all site work some of that work was related to the sidewalk on Torrey Street in front of the library, and also the entranceway into the ground floor of the building. That cost is in the \$75,000 and \$80,000 range. Therefore, with the new request not all of the bond money will be utilized, just the portion related to the sidewalk work and the entranceways into the building.

Councilor McDonald MOVED to approve and Councilor Hackett seconded. UNANIMOUSLY voted.

13 138 CPC Whitman’s Pond Vegetation Management

Mr. Clarke noted that this request is for funds that had previously been allocated for permitting and review of drawdown at the main pond and that this request was approved at the November meeting of the CPC.

Ms. Schloss said that the drawdown is one of several tools that we need to use to manage the pond. There is not just one tool. This technique is most effective in the main basin of Whitman’s Pond, and not in the West or South Cove. This allows for permitting of this technique - called “winter lake level draw down”. They will complete permitting and first year of implementation and monitoring, in addition to baseline monitoring and follow up monitoring. It is a five-year permit. The technique is used periodically to be determined in permitting documents.

The Whitman’s Pond Working Group will review the RFP. It is put together by the Mayor and has stakeholders, DPW, planning, conservation, Whitman’s Pond Association, and Councilor Arthur Mathews. A small subcommittee will be formed to develop the first draft. They will need to make sure not to expend all the funds if this is not feasible and determine if they can safely

draw down the pond – one, whether it will be effective and two, can we get enough water back into the pond by the time the March 1st smelt run begins.

A six-foot drawn is required, which means six feet in elevation not six feet out from the shoreline. This will expose a lot of the shoreline. They may find that it cannot be done because of environmental considerations – and that only a three-foot draw down can be done. It was noted that this is an iterative process.

The Whitman's Pond Working Group will be looking at lots of things, hydraulics and hydrology, just to name a few and they want to know how fast the pond will refill. The pond would be drawn down in December and January and refilled in February.

Permitting may involve MEPA environmental notification form, Chapter 91 from Mass DEP, conservation commission order of conditions, and maybe a dam safety order. The \$25,000 would allow the town to complete this work. The consultant would represent the town at public meetings including public hearings but also meetings like with DEP and MEPA.

Mr. Clarke said that work would commence next winter. Ms. Schloss said the money is in the permitting. There will be monitoring for approximately \$5,000 to \$7,000-it was noted that once permitting starts, it is just the monitoring costs. Otherwise, it is raising and lowering the sluice gate.

Mr. Swanson noted that if these three measures are approved there will be a balance remaining of \$47,375 in the reserve fund.

Councilor McDonald MOVED to approve and Councilor Hackett seconded. UNANIMOUSLY voted.

14-002 Police Department Line Item Transfer

Captain Joseph Comperchio, speaking on behalf of the measure to transfer \$395,000 from salary to overtime, said that the overtime budget would be in the negative by \$350,000 by the year end. Captain Comperchio noted that there would be a surplus in the salary account by half a million dollars.

Mr. Swanson noted that according to his analysis, there is, as Captain Comperchio said, adequate money to cover the overtime.

Councilor O'Connor noted that there are new officers coming on board and that this is great news.

Councilor McDonald MOVED to approve and Councilor Hackett seconded. UNANIMOUSLY voted.

14 004 Appointment to the Commission on Disabilities- Francesco Hladysz

Chairman Molisse recognized Mr. Hladysz. Mr. Hladysz spoke about his qualifications for appointment to the Commission on Disabilities, including participation in the Inclusive Current

Enrollment Program at Bridgewater State University. He said that his dream is to advocate for such programs and spread awareness.

Councilor O'Connor thanked Mr. Hladysz and noted that he had met Mr. Hladysz at the State House.

Councilor O'Connor MOVED to approve the measure and was seconded by Councilor Hackett. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:18 PM, there being no further business, a motion was made by Councilor O'Connor to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Hackett. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by Jody H. Lehrer as Recording Secretary

Approved by Chairman Molisse, Budget/Management Committee

Voted unanimously on 3 March 2014