

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Special Town Council Meeting
Weymouth Town Hall Council Chambers
75 Middle Street
May 26, 2015, Tuesday

Present: Patrick O'Connor, President
Michael Smart, Councilor
Robert Conlon, Councilor
Kenneth DiFazio, Councilor
Jane Hackett, Councilor
Rebecca Haugh, Councilor
Thomas J. Lacey, Councilor
Arthur Mathews, Councilor
Brian McDonald, Councilor
Michael Molisse, Councilor

Not Present: Ed Harrington, Councilor

Also Present: Susan M. Kay, Mayor
George Lane, Town Solicitor
Kathy Deree, Town Clerk
William McKinney, Chief Financial Officer
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

President O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Town Clerk Kathy Deree called the roll, with one member absent. President O'Connor reported that Councilor Harrington had a previously scheduled family event out of state.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Haugh announced a public hearing will be held at 7PM on May 27, 2015 at Abigail Adams Middle School Auditorium for the Spectra Energy gas compression plant proposed in North Weymouth. She encouraged residents to submit written comment or sign up to speak on the proposal.

Councilor McDonald announced that he plans to schedule a meeting shortly of the Environmental Committee to review the proposal.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

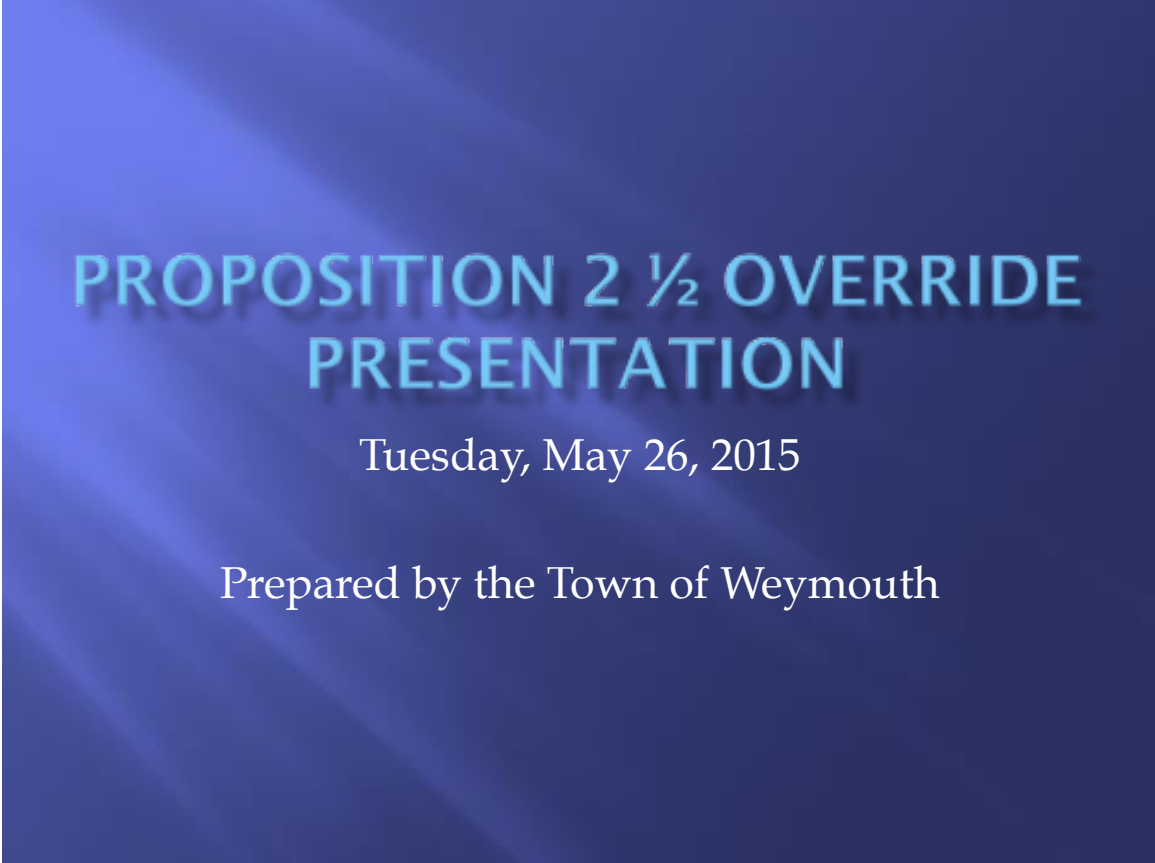
15 076-Proposed Proposition 2 ½ Override, Continued from May 18, 2015

A motion was made by Vice President Smart to re-open the public hearing and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Presentation by Mayor Susan Kay and Administration Proposed Proposition 2 ½ Override

CFO McKinney noted that the information provided at the Annual Town Meeting is available on the town website.

Proposition 2 ½ override presentation



**PROPOSITION 2 ½ OVERRIDE
PRESENTATION**

Tuesday, May 26, 2015

Prepared by the Town of Weymouth

Budget Overview

"We must consult our means rather than our wishes." – George Washington

The Fiscal Year 2016 budget is balanced and stable.

However, it does not reflect our wishes.

Our Town deserves more – more funding for schools, roads, public safety, human services & recreation.

Available Revenue by Year

Fiscal Yr.	Budget	% Change	State Aid	% Change
FY2016	\$149,046,710	3.71%	\$36,286,537	0.79%
FY2015	\$143,710,028	2.94%	\$36,001,399	1.26%
FY2014	\$139,610,403	3.32%	\$35,552,221	2.76%
FY2013	\$135,119,271	3.72%	\$34,595,794	6.39%
FY2012	\$130,273,073	3.26%	\$32,517,373	5.58%
FY2011	\$126,159,059	-0.60%	\$30,800,048	-4.07%
FY2010	\$126,914,669	-1.81%	\$32,106,264	-11.39%
FY2009	\$129,257,203	2.27%	\$36,233,121	6.61%
FY2008	\$126,384,511		\$33,987,660	

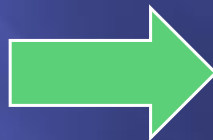
Local Aid Comparison

Revenue	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016
Education Aid	\$ 27,175,365	\$ 27,422,284	\$ 27,539,050	\$ 27,585,667
Local Aid (General Govt.)	\$ 6,842,039	\$ 7,549,641	\$ 7,759,007	\$ 8,038,331
Veterans' Benefits	\$ 339,577	\$ 313,256	\$ 458,234	\$ 413,354
All other aid	\$ 238,813	\$ 237,040	\$ 245,108	\$ 249,185
Total	\$ 34,595,794	\$ 35,522,221	\$ 36,001,399	\$ 36,286,537

Local Aid Comparison

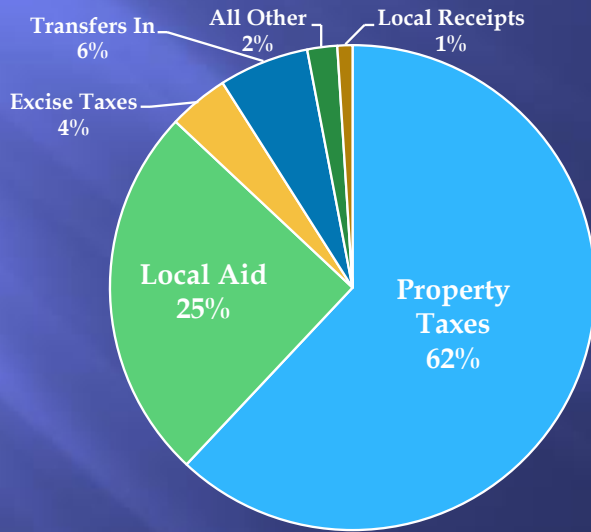
Revenue	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016
Total	\$34,595,794	\$35,522,221	\$36,001,399	\$36,286,537
Increase from previous year	\$ 2,078,421	\$ 926,427	\$ 479,178	\$ 285,138
Increase as %	6.4%	2.7%	1.3%	0.8%

1.2% avg.
increase
per year



2.1% avg.
inflation
per year

Sources of Revenue FY2016



Local reliance on property tax rises as state aid declines

Revenue Increase from Fiscal Year 2015 to 2016

Revenue Source	Change Amount
Local Receipts (local services fees)	\$ (300,000)
Excise Taxes (vehicles and boats)	\$ 400,000
Local Aid (money from state)	\$ 280,000
Transfer Funds (water, sewer, CPA*)	\$ 70,000
Misc. Revenues (earned interest, motel tax, etc.)	\$ 120,000
Property Taxes (real estate/personal property) includes SouthField	\$ 4,730,000
Total Revenue Increase	\$ 5,300,000

*CPA describes Community Preservation Act Funds

Revenue Sources: Descriptions

▣ Local Receipts

- Mayor's office
- Town Clerk's office
- Building, electrical & plumbing permits
- Public safety fines
- DPW fees
- SouthField payments for local services

▣ Local Aid

- MA Ch. 70 Education
- General government
- Veterans' benefits

▣ Property & Excise Taxes

- Real estate & PILOT
- Personal property
- Motor vehicle & boat excises

Revenue Sources: Descriptions

▣ Transfer Funds

- Sewer
- Water
- Special Revenues
 - ▣ Waterways
 - ▣ Rubbish
 - ▣ Community Preservation Act (CPA)

▣ Misc. Revenue

- Interest income
- Meals Tax
- Motel occupancy tax
- Everything else

SouthField Tax Impact in Fiscal Year 2016

*SouthField is generating only marginal new revenue for the Town.
For the next several years, the costs of services will exceed newfound revenue.*

Impact	Revenue (est.)
New Growth (real estate/personal property taxes)	\$ 2,100,000
Chargeback for Infrastructure Bond	\$ (600,000)
Revenue Loss in Payments for Local Services	\$ (400,000)
Increase for Overlay for Abatement	\$ (100,000)
Net Impact from SouthField for FY16	\$ 1,000,000

Expense Increases from Fiscal Year 2015 to 2016

Expense	Increase Amount
Debt Service	\$ 400,000
State Assessments	\$ 150,000
Overlay for Abatements	\$ 100,000
Pensions & Other Benefits	\$ 1,690,000
Public Safety	\$ 1,130,000
Other General Government Operations	\$ 130,000
School Department Operations	\$ 1,700,000
Total Expense Increase	\$ 5,300,000*

*The total expense change matches the total revenue change for a balanced budget.

Level Service Funding Needs

A level service budget describes the amount of funding required for Departments to maintain their current levels of service.

Department	Funding increase requested for level service	Actual funding increase (FY16)	Shortfall for level service
Library	\$ 78,000	\$ 35,000	\$ (43,000)
Veterans' Services	\$ 54,000	\$ 4,000	\$ (50,000)
Fire Dept.	\$ 524,000	\$ 160,000	\$ (364,000)
Police Dept.	\$ 1,378,000	\$ 966,000	\$ (412,000)
DPW	\$ 734,000	\$ 185,000	\$ (549,000)
Schools	\$ 3,835,000	\$ 1,706,000*	\$ (2,129,000)
Total			\$ (3,547,000)

*An additional one-time Free Cash measure for \$1.3M has also been proposed.

Projecting into FY2017

Revenue (est.)	Increase
Property Taxes (2.5%)	\$ 4,000,000
Local Aid	\$ 200,000
Total	\$ 4,200,000

Expense (est.)	Increase
State assessments (5% increase)	\$150,000
Pension (3.75% increase)	\$350,000
Health Ins. (6% increase)	\$1,290,000
Total	\$1,790,000

Unless revenue trends change, it will be an ongoing challenge just to meet level service funding.

Funds for all government operations are estimated to increase by only \$2.4M in FY17.

The largest portion of new revenue each year always comes from local property taxes, not local aid.

Revenue Increase	\$ 4,200,000
Expense Increase	\$ 1,790,000
New Funds Available for all Govt. Operations	\$ 2,410,000

Real Estate Tax Levy

The tax levy is the total amount a community can raise by taxing property. State law generally caps the increase of the tax levy at 2 ½ percent a year.

- ❑ The real estate tax levy for FY2016 is \$ 89,945,120.
- ❑ The tax rate is the percentage of the levy applied to each property.
- ❑ To determine the rate, we divide the levy by the total assessed value of the Town. We then “shift” the rate over different property types (residential, commercial, etc.).
- ❑ The town-wide valuation for FY2015 was \$ 6.2 billion.
- ❑ Using the FY2015 valuation, an estimated tax rate for FY2016 is $\$90\text{M}/\$6.2\text{B} = \underline{\$14.51}$ per \$1,000 before the shift

Real Estate Tax Levy

- ❑ An increase or decrease in property values does not affect the tax levy (i.e., total amount raised)
- ❑ It affects only the tax rate – that is, the portion of the levy applied to each property.

The tax rate changes based on valuation but the levy stays the same.

- ❑ Let's use FY2017 as an example:
 - FY2017's tax levy will be \$90M (FY16 levy) + 2.5% + new growth = \$94M (guess est.)
 - If the town-wide valuation was \$6.2B (same as FY15) → tax rate would be \$15.16 per thousand before the shift
 - If the town-wide valuation was \$7B (more than FY16) → tax rate would be \$13.43 per thousand before the shift
 - If the town-wide valuation was \$5B (less than FY16) → tax rate would be \$18.80 per thousand before the shift

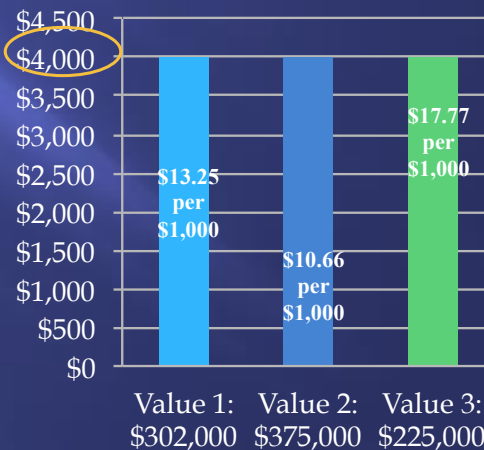
How Changes in Property Value Affect the Amount Paid by a Homeowner

Property Value	Tax Rate per \$1,000	Amount Collected
\$302,000 (Wey. avg.)	\$13.24	\$4,000
\$375,000	\$10.66	\$4,000
\$225,000	\$17.77	\$4,000

Even as the property value goes up and down, the homeowner pays the same total.

The rate changes but the amount collected (i.e., the levy) ends up being the same in all scenarios.

Amount Collected from Homeowner



Prop. 2 ½ Override

- ❑ Proposition 2 ½ caps a community's tax levy at 2.5% of the previous year's total (*plus* any new growth).
- ❑ Proposition 2 ½ contains provisions that allow voters to approve exceptions to the 2.5% limit.
- ❑ The levy can be increased by adopting an override.
- ❑ An override is a ballot initiative to raise additional revenues by a specific amount, which becomes part of the base for calculating future levy limits each year.

Measure 15 076 as Amended

TO: TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: SUSAN M. KAY, MAYOR
RE: PROPOSITION 2.5 OVERRIDE
DATE: APRIL 15, 2015

I submit the following measure for consideration by Town Council:

“**ORDERED**, that pursuant to Chapter 59, Section 21C(g) of the General Laws, the following question shall be placed upon the ballot **for a Town election to be held June 30, 2015:**

Shall the Town of Weymouth be allowed to assess an additional \$6,500,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the following departmental expenses: School Department (\$3,000,000), Police Department (\$1,000,000), Fire Department (\$1,000,000), Public Works Department (\$1,000,000), other Town Departments (\$500,000) for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015?

YES _____ NO _____ “

This measure requires a legal notice and a public hearing.

Override Timeline

- If override is approved by voters on June 30th...
 - A supplemental budget is prepared and submitted to the Town Council within 30 days
 - Once the supplemental budget is approved, override funds are immediately available
 - A final FY16 Budget (if there are any further changes) must be approved by early November in order to set the tax rate.
 - The override amount for the full fiscal year will be added to the actual tax bills for the 3rd and 4th quarter, to be mailed by the end of December 2015

Chief Grimes reviewed the Police Department goals. Mayor Kay noted that prior to 2000, the department could provide community policing. With current numbers it is not possible, as the type and number of calls requires a different response. Chief Grimes noted that he will maintain special units; it's only fair to the residents and maintaining them takes some load off the uniforms. There are other impacts with current numbers; the staff undergoes stress when short-handed and members are forced to holdover on shifts. Lt. Richard Abadessa read a statement on behalf of the Superior Officers union supporting the proposal:

“On behalf of the Weymouth Superior Officers Union, I would like to express our support of Mayor Kay’s Fiscal Year 2016 budget and the Proposition 2 ½ Override proposal. As Chief Grimes accurately stated, the Weymouth Police Department is currently understaffed and has been for several years, especially when considered with other communities of similar size, population and demographics. The Chief’s plan to hire another ten patrol officers will help to address the manpower issue that currently exists in our department. Weymouth Police Superior Officers remain dedicated to providing police services to the community with professionalism and integrity. The hiring of additional police personnel will increase our ability to prevent crime, enforce the law and enhance public safety for the citizens of Weymouth.”

Officer Shawn Murray, President of the Patrolman’s Union 378, also read a statement on behalf of the union:

“I’m writing on behalf of the Patrolman’s Union, Local 378 to express our union’s support of Mayor Kay’s proposed Proposition 2 ½ Operational Override. As you are aware, the last seven budgetary years have left the Weymouth Police Department with a significant shortfall in staffing levels. The department has seen its staffing levels decreased to such a low number that it is becoming increasingly difficult to staff shifts on a day-to-day basis. Furthermore, overtime shifts are being forced on an already depleted patrol staff. This in turn has a direct impact on the overall health and safety of the overall organization. The Mayor’s proposed override will potentially infuse \$1,000,000 and increase our ranks by ten officers. These ten officers would have an immediate impact on the department and the Weymouth community at large. This is an exciting opportunity to begin to bring the department to staffing levels as they were in early 2000. The men and women of the Weymouth Police Department will continue to provide the highest level of professional services that the residents have come to expect. The Weymouth Police Department Patrolman’s Union looks forward to working with Mayor Kay and the Council in this endeavor by providing the necessary information to the residents of Weymouth in order for them to make an informed decision in this critical matter.”

Chief Grimes noted both letters indicate both units will continue to provide professional services that the residents have come to expect. He thanked the public for their support of the department.

Councilor Conlon asked what the increase to 911 response will be per shift if the override passes. The Chief responded three per shift. Councilor DiFazio noted in discussion that the forced hold-overs is detrimental to the department. Councilor DiFazio asked if there is a calculation to determine a cost analysis of salary and benefits for ten additional officers. Chief Grimes responded that the analysis was made. The \$100,000 cost includes salary, collective bargaining items and equipment to outfit an officer. The Mayor added that the benefit cost is based on an average.

Councilor Lacey asked the Chief to speak to the urgency of funding this year vs. next. The Chief responded that it takes considerable time to get a hire onto the street. Timing is somewhat flexible due to academy schedules, but generally, the sooner the process can begin, the better. It takes 30-60 days to obtain the Civil Service list, the Academy training takes 6 months and then field training is six weeks. The department would benefit from starting the process as quickly as possible. Mayor Kay added that the process couldn't begin until they know the money is available.

Councilor Hackett noted that if the proposal goes to a ballot vote and passes, a supplemental budget would have to follow. Mayor Kay responded that the administration can put one together fairly quickly.

Chief Stark, Fire Department, read the department's mission statement. He noted that the department is a first responder of all-hazards. An investigative study conducted last year found that Station 1 has outlived its usefulness and a void would be filled in the lower Jackson Square area by reopening Station 2. Overall, a department doing more with less is reflected in the burnout issues with staff. Mayor Kay noted she attended the meeting on the proposed compression station and noted the residents spoke of the concern with public safety and the potential for catastrophe with the growth of hazardous items. As the Town grows, so does the chance of a catastrophe.

Councilor DiFazio urged that specificity and transparency are tantamount to this passing. These plans don't give him a cost; there are no numbers-- \$1 million will not make a dent. He has to agree with the telephone calls he's received- the citizens deserve to know. If the proponents want the override to go forward, there has to be a better accounting. Mayor Kay noted that the administration is in agreement with the opening of Station 2, but do not have an itemization. They don't expect \$1 million would build a fire station, but the first year bonding could come from it and it could provide for an increase in staffing to open a station. Councilor DiFazio asked if the Chief would state on the record that if they have the funding-- Station 2 would be opened in the fiscal year in which the funds become available and the Chief responded yes.

Councilor McDonald asked if the department could provide staffing levels per 1000 residents, as the police provided. Chief Stark responded that the staffing is based on budgetary guidelines. Councilor McDonald responded that it would be a good number to have and Chief Stark reviewed response times and mutual aid policies. Councilor Haugh asked if the override passes, if the administration would submit a measure and Mayor Kay responded yes.

Chief Stark responded that he is still bound by the Safer Grant positions, four or five firefighters in the second year. If the town absorbed the bond fund in year two, the department could hire additional firefighters. Mayor Kay provided information on how they would come off the grant. Councilor DiFazio asked the Chief to bring this forward as they meet with the public, prior to a vote.

President O'Connor asked how many hires would be required if Station 2 is reopened. The Chief responded that it will depend on how much of the staffing will be new hires and how much from overtime.

Mayor Kay asked David Tower, Business Manager, to speak to the DPW needs. The DPW core has less than forty employees paid other than Water and Sewer Enterprise funds. The staffing levels are insufficient- they would like to bring on maintenance employees dedicated to specific departments-park & tree, sidewalk, and materials. They have lost use of the meals tax money that now will go to Legion Field. Mayor Kay added that the town has been only able to do minimal sidewalk work and they would like to have a regular program. Mr. Tower stated that half of the funding will go to personnel, the other half split between parks & tree and the sidewalk program. It's difficult to estimate the cost of it, but they could provide an itemized list of equipment. The most critical part will be the hiring of the highway superintendent which will free up the Director to seek out grants.

Councilor DiFazio recommended that they also be as specific as possible and consider measure 15 071 (bond for repaving sidewalks) and LStar providing \$2 million for vehicles replacement. Mr. Tower added that timing is critical to this department. Councilor DiFazio thought there might be some DPW vehicles listed on the Stabilization fund. Mayor Kay responded that some of those are already purchased. They are not bound to spend this on vehicles. Vice President Smart asked to include benefits in the numbers provided by the DPW.

Mayor Kay noted that of the other \$500,000; \$300,000 would be used to replace the roof, gym floor and HVAC system at the McCulloch, \$90,000 to restore the Veterans Wall at the Ralph Talbot Amphitheater, and the balance to restore level funding to the libraries. She will provide a breakdown.

Superintendent Salim provided a breakdown for the Council. He noted the per pupil spending--a number of reviews affirm the challenging gaps with regard to the budget. He provided the same information as was shared at the Annual Town Meeting, but in a different format. He provided a needs list developed three years ago- with feedback from parents, teachers, etc.. It has been maintained because they have not been able to meet them.

He highlighted the needs list:

One time needs- textbooks, technology (to support PARC assessment), and staff to support it, CTE and Science and Labs

Support for teachers- effective use of technology and implementation of resources/ literacy and curriculum leadership support- These are restoring positions that were eliminated.

Support for students with the greatest needs/long term planning/guidance counselors and nursing support.

Restoring Science Technology and Engineering –restoring positions that were eliminated.

Enrichment support- Art, music, gym, foreign language etc. – the things that provide a well-rounded education.

Mayor Kay noted that the school department also was asked to consider the benefits package in this cost analysis. Supt. Salim noted they broke it out in one-time and recurring needs. Councilor Conlon asked what the scholastic standing for WPS compared to the state. Supt. Salim noted there isn't a single metric. It is a level 3 system (out of 5). Councilor Conlon asked how it compares in MCAS. Supt. Salim will provide a report issued last fall. President O'Connor noted the MCAS information is included in the Council's budget book.

Councilor McDonald noted Weymouth has had a strong solid foundation of teachers and support staff but they are losing the specialty programs that help develop students. Schools have a far greater responsibility to the student today. It's a different dynamic. Dr. Salim responded that because of this, they are asking their teachers to teach differently. There are far greater mandates.

Councilor DiFazio thanked the Superintendent for providing this in a little different format but he asked how the needs list relates to how the department plans to spend \$3.2 million. Superintendent Salim responded that the needs list is the summary; it totals over \$3.8 million. It's a starting point for the department. He also noted that several union and non-union groups are operating without collective bargaining agreements, and have yet to be determined. Councilor DiFazio questions how can the department provide some confidence to the constituents that the funds will not be used to fund collective bargaining impact between now and the vote. Dr. Salim responded that the subcommittee is bargaining in good faith and as they obtain information will provide information for planning going forward. The school committee will have to discuss a funding source when they settle contracts. Dr. Salim responded that the point was well taken.

Councilor Haugh asked if the two projects from the CIP will be included in the needs list. She also asked if boiler replacements must be done in the summer. Dr. Salim responded that the Adams project is higher in priority. She asked if a funding source was available if

the Wessagusset School would be done before summer. Mayor Kay responded that the school department was asked to absorb the two projects.

Councilor Hackett asked the Superintendent to speak to the urgency on hiring. Dr. Salim responded that the school operates on a school year cycle and would try to accomplish all hiring prior to the school year beginning. It's not optimal to hire during the year. Mayor Kay responded that of all departments, schools are the most critical to be able to use funds as quickly as possible. Councilor Hackett asked if any item on the (slide) list is not on the identified needs list. Dr. Salim responded no.

Mayor Kay and CFO McKinney spoke to the override. The measure as it was presented needs to be amended because ballot questions are not allowed. Mr. McKinney reviewed other overrides that were proposed and voted in the community. He reviewed how it will impact assessed values and the average homeowner, and based on the shift on the commercial rate payer. He provided a property tax comparison. Weymouth is the lowest single family tax rate in Norfolk County and he showed a comparison. Mayor Kay read a prepared statement:

“As requested by the Council President, I submitted a \$6.5 million operational override in conjunction with the FY2016 budget. I have clearly demonstrated how our town departments as presented in the FY16 budget would be supplemented by the passage of this override. Based on discussions with the Secretary of State’s office, through the Town Clerk, the measure was presented. The measure as presented needs to be amended because it states “next town election.” Our next town election is to be held on June 30, 2015. Ballot questions are not allowed on the preliminary election which will be held in September. I ask that you agree to set the date of Tuesday June 30, 2015 as the date for the election should the Town Council choose to put this override on the ballot. My reasoning revolves around the fact that this measure was requested in conjunction with the operating budget. It has been deliberated on, commented on in conjunction with the budget, and therefore should be acted on in conjunction with our FY16 budget. According to the Department of Revenue, should a June 30, 2015 election occur and the override passes, the funds raised will be available immediately for appropriation through a standard supplemental budget process. I pledge to you I will present you with that budget.

As we are all aware, the school department needs to know their available funds status so they can begin to hire staff over the summer, hoping to be ready for September. Similarly police and fire need time to get their new hires into training as they had stated this evening before they can be out there on the street. The tax bill process will be the same as it is each year. Should a June 30, 2015 override pass, the first and second quarter tax bills which will be mailed on July 1, 2015 will not reflect the increase. Rather, the third and fourth quarter tax bills will reflect the entire year’s increase.

Councilor Hackett asked the Town Solicitor if the Mayor's request for an amendment requires a vote of Council. Solicitor Lane responded that the addition of the date is a matter of clarification and not one that goes with the question itself and they could entertain a motion for clarification.

A motion was made by Councilor Hackett to amend measure 15 076 from: "shall be placed upon the ballot at the next town election" to "shall be placed upon the ballot for a special election to be held on June 30, 2015" and was seconded by Councilor McDonald.

Councilor Mathews questioned the timing of the amendment. There is a public hearing in process and he wants to hear from the public before entertaining any action. Councilor Conlon concurred, as did Councilor DiFazio, who took issue with the Solicitor's ruling. He noted that they can't adhere and adopt MGL Ch. 53 18(b) to send out an informational flyer before the vote is taken. He wants time to deliberate. Second, the full fiscal year ramification will be borne by the taxpayers on January 1st and suggests it needs more time. He will not support the motion.

Solicitor Lane responded that the statute that Councilor DiFazio refers to is on a different procedure. Sending out educational flyers is a result of enacted legislation adopted by some communities. Adoption of the statute requires local acceptance by the Mayor and Council and is nothing that's countenanced within the measure here. Absent of acceptance of the procedure which is lengthy and cumbersome, a motion may be acted upon for the purposes of clarification.

Councilor Hackett responded that she thought it was required in order to give the public opportunity to comment on the June 30th date. Her intent was to amend the measure for purpose of discussion during the public hearing and formalize the process of public comment on a date specific.

Councilor Lacey asked if they need to reopen the measure that was heard last week so that the action Councilor Hackett suggests is appropriate. Solicitor Lane responded that the question that goes on the ballot is separate from the procedural aspect of the measure. Time is not on the ballot. This measure clarifies but is not part of the question.

Mayor Kay responded that part of the reason to get on a quick ballot is the 35-day requirement and a supplemental budget has to be set before setting the tax rate. CFO McKinney noted that preliminary tax bills will be issued on July 1st whether or not the vote takes place on June 30th, but that the full impact won't be included until the final two quarters bills are issued.

Councilor Conlon responded that he is confused and the voters will be upset being asked to vote on June 30, 2015.

Council President O'Connor reiterated the information from the Mayor and Solicitor--to state that the next town election will be set for June 30, 2015. With all that was said, he

suggested they table the discussion and request the measure be withdrawn until the public has had the opportunity to speak.

Councilor Hackett withdrew her motion and Councilor McDonald his second.

Councilor Lacey asked the Solicitor to confirm that approach is appropriate. Solicitor Lane responded that the motion was for a matter of clarification.

The following are the comments from the public:

Irving Murstein, Broad Street urged patience and noted he is not in favor of an override.

John Sullivan, Tilden Rd. urged support.

Cathy Torrey- 14 Riverbank Rd. urged support.

Jim Young, Idlewell Blvd. and President of Local 1616, supported the override and spoke on behalf of the union which is concerned with staffing and the average response times and urged support to restore the 4 engines/2 ladders model.

Michael Gallahue, 351 Union St. supported the measure

Mark Kilban, 12 Clinton Rd., member of the Weymouth Recreation Advisory Committee supported the measure

Tom Healy, 29 Heritage Ln., teacher, supported the measure

Laurie Hansen, 20 Thompson Rd. supports.

Gail Sheehan, Weymouth School Committee member, supported the measure but not the June 30th vote and would ask the town candidates where they stand.

Peter Farrell- read a statement on behalf of candidate Sean Guilfoyle supporting the measure.

Gus Perez, 16 Hewitt Rd. supported the measure but not the June 30, 2015 vote.

Lisa Belmarsh, 209 Columbian St., member of Weymouth School Committee, supported both the measure and the June 30th date.

Mary Ellen Devine, 11 Mulvey Ln. supported the measure but not the June 30th date.

David Robinson, 757 Commercial St., Weymouth Rotary Chair, requested the shift be more equitable to the commercial community if the override passes

Wayne Mathews, 33 Whitman Street- supported the measure but not the June 30th date.

Kathleen Curran, 26 Babcock Ave, supported the measure but not the June 30th date.

Elizabeth Foster Nolan, 54 House Rock Rd. supported the override but not the June 30th date noting voters must register 21 days prior to the election.

Tricia Pries, 15 Woodbine Rd., requested that public safety be proposed separately. She suggested no override without a forensic audit.

Kathleen Curran asked for point of clarification as to what is the last date to vote for a June 30th election. The Town Clerk responded it is June 9th.

Ann Hilbert 45 Doris Dr., will not support. She asked why ask for an override if Southfield will start paying for services July 1st.

CFO McKinney responded that the impact of taxes from Southfield was presented in the Power Point.

Robert Montgomery Thomas, 848 Washington St. noted he was mischaracterized at the Annual Town Meeting; he could support an override if it was only for one or two years-- and special provision made for seniors.

Beth Ann Ferren, 14 Kingman St. supported the measure.

A motion was made by Vice President Smart to suspend Town Council Rule 24 (to extend a meeting beyond 11PM) and was seconded by Councilor Mathews.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Chris Primiano, 82 Rindge St. noted this is a stopgap measure; they need to have time to prepare. There will not be a second chance and a marketing effort needs to be made.

Michael McDonagh, 28 Belmont St. supported the measure and urged the vote June 30th.

Brian Kelly, 43 Old Colony Dr. urged support and allow enough time to educate the public.

Tara Curtis, 8 Concannon Circle supported the override but there needs to be time to inform the public.

Donna Peavy, 20 Peter Rd., supported the measure but asked for more time to educate the public.

Gus Perez noted that June 30th is not workable. He asked if the Town Council received the update from the Town Clerk on MGL Ch. 53 18(b)? Council President O'Connor responded that he does not believe they have. Mr. Perez responded that they are not

allowed under MGL to send out balanced notification because it was not presented an opportunity to opt in to MGL Ch. 53, 18(b). Town Clerk Deree responded they do not have to adopt everything that comes from the state.

Mayor Kay responded to vindicate the Town Clerk and noted that these mouthy loud accusations were without basis. She called the Secretary of State to make sure it was on the up and up. Because the question that was sent to the Council (and can't be altered). The date of June 30 was proposed only so schools could use funding for the next school year. Three meetings have been scheduled to inform the public.

Councilor Hackett supported the Mayor. She recognized a mistake in the measure and attempted to fix it. The Town Clerk has done a phenomenal job over the last week to work with departments. There were no backroom deals; everyone was just doing their jobs. The meeting was already scheduled to be continued before this issue came to light and there are no conspiracies.

Councilor Lacey responded to Mr. Perez' question as to whether they have not adopted the MGL; they haven't and don't have to to proceed with an override. It was either oversight or a deliberate choice to do it differently. There was no intended oversight by the Town Clerk--they don't have to adopt the MGL that was referenced.

Council President O'Connor noted that by choosing a date triggers certain deadlines. During the summer there would be a lower turnout and it's a disservice. They can't put the question on a primary ballot and had to change the language. It's critical, but not an easy decision to plan this date. It's not an uncommon practice; he cited two other communities who put an override on a ballot within a month (and both passed).

Gus Perez responded that the electorate needs to be informed. He asked in what public forum was the date referenced? Councilor Hackett responded that this is the forum. The agenda was set last Thursday. Mr. Perez noted that none of the public notices included the date.

Mayor Kay responded that the date is included in the motion. It was recommended by the state; the next election. In discussions with the Council and Town Clerk, and they don't want to ruin the momentum with a technicality. She is working with a 35-day clearance following a vote to set a supplemental budget.

Councilor Conlon presumed it would be an election on November 3, and heard from a constituent that it would be June 30th, but if constituents are upset, he will not support it.

Gus Perez asked if there will be no communication regarding a mailing-it was confirmed that no mailing will go out. He asked will the Council adopt the provisions of Ch. 53 18(b)?

Solicitor Lane responded that a local acceptance would require a measure that would have to originate from the Mayor and requires a vote of Council. Mayor confirms that she

hasn't submitted a measure because of short timeframe and guidelines. It has strict timelines and has to originate with a new measure.

Councilor Lacey asked for clarity. Can the Council initiate the matter? Solicitor Lane responded that he would have to study it further. Mayor Kay responded that she would not deny the voters. Only certain people can put forward a pro/con. She would have to be careful of a technicality.

Mr. Perez asked if the Mayor will put forward a measure. Solicitor Lane responded that Ch. 18 (b) has strict guidelines and there needs to be more discussion. Mayor Kay responded that she would like to further study this.

A motion was made by Councilor Hackett to continue the public hearing to June 1, 2015 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

OLD BUSINESS

15 076- Proposition 2 ½ Override

This item is still in public hearing.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Budget/Management- Chairman Michael Molisse

15 070 Debt Refinancing

Councilor Molisse reported that the measure was referred to the committee on 4/21. The committee met on 5/26 and voted to forward to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action. On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, a motion was made by Councilor Molisse to approve measure 15 070:

“Ordered, that in order to reduce interest costs, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to issue refunding bonds, at one time or from time to time, pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 21A of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, to refund all or any portion of the Town’s general obligation bonds outstanding as of the date of adoption of this order and that the proceeds or any refunding bonds issued pursuant to this vote shall be used to pay the principal, redemption premium and interest on the bonds of the Town to be refunded, and costs of issuance of the refunding bond; and that the Treasurer is authorized to execute such documents as may be necessary or desirable to carry out this transaction, including one or more refunding trust agreements with a bank or trust company. “

The motion was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED 9-0 (Council President O’Connor was not present for the vote.)

15 071 Bonding for Various Capital Projects

Councilor Molisse reported that the measure was referred to the committee on April 21, 2015. The committee met on and voted to forward to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action. On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, a motion was made by Councilor Molisse to approve measure 15 071 as follows:

“Ordered, that \$385,000 is appropriated for the purpose of paying costs of reconstructing and replacing the front section of the roof, and complete the new roofing of the Johnson School, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow an amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(3A) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority; and that the Mayor is authorized to contract for and expend any grants, aid or gifts available for this project; and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project.

Further ordered, that \$825,000 is appropriated for the purpose of paying costs of removing and replacing boilers at the Abigail Adams School, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(3A) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority; and that the Mayor is authorized to contract for and expend any grants, aid or gifts amount for this project; and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project.

Further ordered, that \$175,000 is appropriated for the purpose of paying costs of replacing doors and glass storefronts at the Thomas W. Hamilton Primary School, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7 (3A) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority; and that the Mayor is authorized to contract for and expend any grants, aid or gifts available for this project; and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project.

Further ordered, that \$200,000 is appropriated for the purpose of paying costs of repairing and resurfacing the Weymouth High School Track, including small areas of track repair, new top coat to the existing latex track, installation of track channel drains, and athletic ball netting, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(25) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority; and that the Mayor is authorized to contract for and expend any grants, aid or gifts available for this project; and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project.

Further ordered, that \$695,000 is appropriated for the purpose of paying costs of repaving sidewalks, town building parking lots and school parking lots and driveways, and for the payment for all other costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(6) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority; and that the Mayor is authorized to contract for and expend any grants, aid or gifts available for this project; and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project.

Further ordered, that \$920,000 is appropriated for the purpose of paying costs of remodeling, reconstructing and making extraordinary repairs to the following Town buildings: Tufts Library (roof and gutter replacement), Police Station (new heating system), Town Hall (roof and gutter repairs, brick repointing, cupola window replacement and HVAC improvements), DPW building (HVAC and other improvements) and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(3A) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority; and that the Mayor is authorized to contract for and expend any grants, aid or gifts available for this project; and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project.”

The motion was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

15 073 CDBG Authorization 2015-2016

Councilor Molisse reported that the measure was referred to the committee on April 21, 2015. The committee met on May 26, 2015 and voted to forward to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, a motion was made by Councilor Molisse to approve measure 15 073; that the Town of Weymouth accepts the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 HUD grants in the amount of \$634,493 for CDBG and \$125,000 in HOME Investment Partnership Grant Funds.

Furthermore, that the Director of Planning and Community Development, with the approval of the Mayor, be permitted to expend said grants in their entirety as described on the attached funding allocation list.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

15 079 Reappointment to the Board of Library Trustees- Dorothy Coveney

Councilor Molisse reported that the measure was referred to the committee on May 4, 2015. The committee met on May 26, 2015 and voted to forward to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, a motion was made by Councilor Molisse to approve measure 15 079; that the Town of Weymouth reappoint Dorothy Coveney of 206 Central Street to the Board of Library Trustees for a term to expire on June 30, 2018, and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

15 080 Reappointment to the Waterfront Committee- Raymond Nash

Councilor Molisse reported that the measure was referred to the committee on May 4, 2015. The committee met on May 26, 2015 and voted to forward to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, a motion was made by Councilor Molisse to approve measure 15 080; that the Town of Weymouth reappoints Raymond Nash of 31 Bradmere Way to the Waterfront Committee for a term to expire on June 30, 2018 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

15 081- Reappointment to the Local Emergency Planning Committee-Jonathan Tose

Councilor Molisse reported that the measure was referred to the committee on May 4, 2015. The committee met on May 26, 2015 and voted to forward to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, a motion was made by Councilor Molisse to approve measure 15 081; that the Town of Weymouth reappoints Jonathan Tose of 74 Patricia Lane to the Local Emergency Planning Committee for a term to expire on June 30, 2018 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

15 082- Pensions and Benefits Line Item Transfer

Councilor Molisse reported that the measure was referred to the committee on May 18, 2015. The committee met on May 26, 2015 and voted to forward to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, a motion was made by Councilor Molisse to approve measure 15 070; that the Town of Weymouth transfers the sum of \$100,000 for the purpose of funding the costs associated with increase in work-related injuries and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

15 083-RFT-Administrative Services

Councilor Molisse reported that the measure was referred to the committee on May 18, 2015. The committee met on May 26, 2015 and voted to forward to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, a motion was made by Councilor Molisse to approve measure 15 070; that the Town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$300 from the Reserve Fund to pay the costs associated with training a new hire in the Mayor's Office and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

15 084-RFT-Fire Department Overtime

Councilor Molisse reported that the measure was referred to the committee on May 18, 2015. The committee met on May 26, 2015 and voted to forward to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, a motion was made by Councilor Molisse to approve 15 070; that the Town of Weymouth transfers the sum of \$100,000 from the Reserve Fund for the costs associated with an increase in usage of overtime and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

15 085-RFT-Water Enterprise Overtime

Councilor Molisse reported that the measure was referred to the committee on May 18, 2015. The committee met on and voted to forward to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, a motion was made by Councilor Molisse to approve 15 070; that the Town of Weymouth transfers the sum of \$20,000 from the Water Enterprise fund to pay the costs associated with overtime due to a large number of water main breaks over the winter and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Menu Override to Proposition 2 ½ Proposal- Councilor at Large Robert Conlon

Councilor Conlon proposed a menu override in place of the Proposition 2 ½ Override currently under consideration. He suggested a \$6.5 million override, split in the following manner and each posed as a stand-alone question on a ballot:

- \$3 million – Fire Department
- \$1 million – Police
- \$1 million – Schools
- \$1.5 million – DPW

A motion was made by Councilor Conlon that the Town of Weymouth offer a question to the voters of the town of Weymouth for a menu override. There was no second.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:35, there being no further business, a motion was made by Vice President Smart to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Council President Patrick O’Connor
Minutes voted unanimously on 24 August 2015