

minutes were approved
on 6 April 2015
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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Town Hall Council Chambers
March 16, 2015, Monday

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

Also Present: George Lane, Town Solicitor
Kathy Deree, Town Clerk
William McKinney, Chief Financial Officer
James Clarke, Director of Planning
Kenan Connell, Director, DPW
Jeff Richards, Director, Licensing & Inspections

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor O'Connor announced with regret the passing of Dennis Hamilton; active employee in the Water Department and employed by the town since 1968. A moment of silence was observed.

Councilor Haugh announced a public meeting by Spectra Energy to be held from 5:30 – 7:30 PM on March 19, 2015 at the Weymouth Elks Hall. There will not be a formal presentation but representatives will be on hand to answer questions.

Councilor Molisse announced the Weymouth Parks and Recreation 2015 Programs brochure is available. Copies can be obtained at the Teen Center, or may be accessed online at the town website.

Councilor DiFazio announced the WHS Dance team placed 4th in state competition and moved on to regional competition. He congratulated them on a successful season.

RESIDENT AND COMMUNITY COMMENT

Planning and the School Funding Situation- Gus Perez of 16 Hewitt Road

Mr. Perez addressed the Council. He provided a handout of slides that he had requested be shown for the public but Council President O'Connor could not accommodate his request for use of the overhead projection equipment as proper notice was not provided to Council. Mr. Perez noted that to not allow this constituted unreasonable restriction and requested the Council reconsider what constitutes public comment going forward.

Council President O'Connor responded that he was not notified until 2 PM today that Mr. Perez requested slides be presented. The equipment is not the Council's property and could not be secured as there was not proper notice. Council President O'Connor did note that the Council has afforded public comment certain other accommodations, like flexibility on the 5-minute rule. Mr. Perez responded that public comment is not reliant on the town hall to accommodate. He suggested that Council obtain a laptop. He was allowed the use of slides last year and School Committee routinely allows it. Council Vice President Smart responded that School Committee and Town Council meeting structures differ. Mr. Perez referenced four slides:

1. The gap between what other communities and Weymouth are spending is getting bigger, although Weymouth has met NSS in FY14 and FY15.
2. The second slide references a DESE presentation on Chapter 70 that demonstrates most communities spend above their minimum NSS requirement.
3. The third slide showed per pupil spending and shows Weymouth falling behind.
4. The 4th slide is DESE updated ranking by community of the percent of the budgeted minimum required.

He summarized that the town is doing a disservice to the students and to education and continues to position Weymouth as a community that is not invested in its schools.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

15 011-Debt Refinancing

15 012-Bonding for Various Capital Projects

A motion was made by Vice President Smart to OPEN the Public Hearing on measure 15 011-Debt Refinancing and 15 012-Bonding for Various Capital Projects and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

CFO McKinney presented the measures with Mr. Clarke. He reported that by keeping debt service level, the Town can continue to bond for projects. Jim Clarke reviewed the proposed projects with various other department personnel.

David Proule, School Business Manager outlined the proposed school projects:

- Johnson School Roof replacement

- Various schools- tile removal and replacement (includes Seach, Talbot, Nash Murphy and Chapman)
- Hamilton School door replacement
- WHS track- recoat and repaint, drainage and netting (Jim Clarke noted that bonding authorization deliberation will include funding mechanism.)

Kenan Connell, DPW Director reviewed the proposed town projects:

- Repaving- a redistricting by HUD removed CDBG as a funding source. This is in concert with a water main restoration project in the Idlewell area. Balance of funds will be used for school repaving, focused mainly on the Hamilton School drive

Jeff Richards- Director of Municipal Licenses and Inspections reviewed the town building projects:

- Tufts Library- Repair roof/gutters
- Police Headquarters-replace pneumatic temperature control system
- Town Hall – repair roof and outside brick layer
- DPW Building- replace two boilers

President O'Connor opened the discussion. CFO McKinney noted that the Council authorized bonding for the high school track but the language did not include the track. The school committee has requested the track be done.

Councilor DiFazio noted that all the funding appears to be evenly divided between school and non-school projects and he asked if the CIP protocol was followed. Mr. Clarke reviewed the procedure. The projects were prioritized by the school department, in order of need. The town projects followed a similar process; however, the HUD districting changed after the work was planned for the Idlewell neighborhood and removed CDBG as a source of funding.

Councilor DiFazio asked if other funding sources were sought for the other projects. Mr. Clarke responded that none qualified for CPA and none are on the mitigation list for HCA funding. Councilor DiFazio asked if some of these funds will be used to pave unaccepted streets? Mr. Clarke responded that some of the Idlewell streets are private ways, and once the work is completed, the town will submit them for acceptance as public. Councilor DiFazio asked how a deteriorated condition street is submitted for paving. Mr. Clarke responded that CDBG funds may be used to pave streets in low to moderate income areas. They have not been able to use Chapter 90 funds because they must be used only on public ways.

Vice President Smart asked if bonding out to pave unaccepted roads is a departure from past policy. Mr. Clarke responded that the policy is to utilize CDBG funds where possible. The reason this is unique, is that HUD changed the parameters once the plans were in place to do the work.

Councilor Lacey noted that he has worked with the administration and reinforced what Mr. Clarke said. There have been numerous public works projects on these roads that heavily impacted these private roadways. It was to have been a good use of CDBG funding and with another project disrupting the neighborhood in the process; it is a good use of the funds.

Councilor Haugh noted that at the last meeting, the Johnson School lot was included for paving funds. She asked for confirmation that it will be done. Mr. Clarke responded that according to the priority list that was presented, the Hamilton School is first; Johnson is third.

Councilor Smart noted that when the high school was built the track did not have enough lanes for certain scholastic competition. He questions if this still holds true. WPS Athletic Director Kevin Mackin noted that the school is able to host MIAA interscholastic meets with the current six lanes, but not state level competition which requires eight lanes.

Councilor Lacey asked the CFO for more detail regarding the Legion funding detail. Mr. McKinney responded that it is included in the referral packet provided with the measure to Council.

The following are comments from the public:

Dawn Peavey, 20 Peter Road, President of Parent Council at JECC, noted that the Mayor had stated at a meeting on March 2, 2015 that the parking lot at JECC was to be paved and asked if it will be moved up the priority list. Mr. Clarke took note and responded that it will be discussed.

Gus Perez, 16 Hewitt Road noted that bond refinancing makes sense. With respect to the other measure, a number are tagged for specific projects. Others are a collective bucket list. Is there a document that lists specifics for each project? Where, what and specific cost? Mr. Clarke responded that the information was presented by school administration but not the details.

President O'Connor asked for more detail on the tile replacement.

Councilor Haugh noted that the list includes total costs and specific locations. Mr. Perez asked for specific costs per individual schools. The \$200,000 for the track replacement is not part of this bond, but will be funded from elsewhere. Mr. McKinney responded with how the funding and bonding authorization was presented. Mr. Perez also asked if there is a specific list for breakdown of paving costs. Mr. Clarke responded that it will include Idlewell and Hamilton School specifically, and further assessment for priorities once the snow melts. Mr. Perez suggested that a detailed list from departments would be appropriate. He also asked what constitutes the difference between a private way and a private parking lot. Mr. Clarke explained that a private way is laid out as a street but is

used for public purposes and is not owned by the town. Councilor McDonald suggested they are more appropriately known as “unaccepted streets.”

Robert Montgomery Thomas, 848 Washington Street noted that the gutters were replaced on the Tufts library a few years ago and because gutter guards were not installed they failed with the snow this year. He recommended they be used this time. He asked if the town must continue to maintain once a road is paved, and will it bring revenue to the town once it's paved. If there is no benefit to the town what is the advantage of paving? Certain utilities have a propensity for not meeting the town's standards when utility work is performed on public ways, and they need to be held accountable. He noted the paving of Washington Street, only to be dug up by a utility company soon thereafter. Mr. Connell responded that the town provides services to every resident, short of paving. As for the utility work on Washington Street that Mr. Thomas refers, the town received in writing that restoration work would be done; due diligence was practiced. Council Vice President Smart reported that the Council, through the Ordinance Committee, worked hard to redo the ordinance addressing this. The next utility contractor is on notice. Contractors appear before Council and are reminded of the guidelines. They will continue to work on this; even if it means they hold bond funding back when prequalifying contractors.

Peter Farrell, 91 Hill Street noted he is happy to hear there is some priority; it is encouraging. He is against borrowing money on any bond project when unsure of the costs- without a maintenance plan in place. He suggested the town should not take on more bonds while the schools are deteriorating.

Councilor DiFazio noted that with the extraordinary winter, road maintenance costs will be higher than normal. He asked if the town has enough Chapter 90 funding or will a supplemental request be presented? It might be prudent to begin to earmark the funds now.

Chris Primiano, 82 Rindge Street suggested a multiyear plan should be in place with funding sources over the next 6-9 months for road repairs. It's a transparency issue. He asked for the current bonding rate. CFO McKinney responded that he anticipates it will be approximately 4% and bonds were refunded in the last round in 2012 and saved the town approximately \$1 million.

Tricia Pries, 15 Woodbine Road asked for an explanation of the difference between the project in the debt exclusion measure and this bonding? Are they in the same category of funding? How do projects get allocated? Mr. Clarke responded that most in this list of the CIP (schools, library, police, town hall) impact day-to-day operations. Ms. Pries asked over what projects does the high school track take priority? Mr. McKinney responded that the track is funded from the meals tax and noted that the track is considered recreation. She asked if the MWRA offers mitigation for roads? Mr. Clarke responded that MWRA provided mitigation in Fore River projects and Mill Cove. Councilor Lacey noted that a handful of MWRA projects were performed in Idlewell and mitigation was not offered on the flower streets. Ms. Pries asked if it is typical to get mitigation money

from utilities for projects. Mr. Clarke and Councilor Lacey noted that it depends on the project's impact. Ms. Pries asked if the life cycle of the track project is shorter than the life cycle of the bond financing it. CFO McKinney responded that MGL allows funding for a maximum of fifteen years.

Gus Perez noted that what he is hearing is a level of confusion over the approach. How can they make decisions before the FY16 budget is presented? Why are some things being bonded instead of through other funding mechanisms, and putting it into context why is the debt exclusion measure also being presented with other questionable capital improvement projects; it doesn't make sense globally. There is no planning, no plan to deal with OPEB liability, the Emery Estate or revenue funding for Legion Field with revised user fees to cover maintenance and no transparency with the details in the measure. It makes no sense to discuss piecemeal and a discussion with a plan needs to be addressed in totality.

Robert Montgomery Thomas noted the plan is the debt will be passed on to the children who will graduate and move away. He thanked Director Connell and the staff of the DPW for their work this winter between snow and water main breaks. The public applauded his comment.

Gus Perez noted that he neglected to add that this plan includes no request for additional DPW equipment.

CFO McKinney responded that the Mayor did present a plan a few weeks ago and discussed debt exclusion, negotiation with Starwood and purchasing of DPW equipment with Chapter 90 funds.

Robert Montgomery Thomas noted that a plan was presented on June 21, 2011 to purchase the Emery Estate. At the time, he suggested borrowing 600K more to remediate the lead paint on the property. Now the Council has before it a measure for another \$900K to make it accessible. The building has no architectural significance; the property is not on the Historic Register; no matter where the funds come from, it should not be spent.

Council President O'Connor reported that the measure was continued in committee. No vote recommending Council action has been taken.

A Motion was made by Councilor Hackett to continue the public hearing on measure 15 011-Debt Refinancing and 15 012-Bonding for Various Capital Projects was seconded by Vice President Smart.

Councilor DiFazio noted he will support a continuance. He agrees with some of the statements. In order to make intelligent decisions, there are ongoing needs, all need to be diligently thought of and not dealt with piecemeal.

Councilor Mathews noted it is his understanding that the hearings must be continued to a date certain. President O'Connor noted that if the other measures are continued, it should be to a date certain. Councilor Molisse responded that the next meeting is scheduled on April 6, 2015. Mr. Perez asked a procedural question: If the discussion would be at the Budget/Management Committee, he suggested that the meeting be televised for the public. Council President O'Connor responded that it will be televised.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

OLD BUSINESS

Fiscal Year 2014 Audited Financial Statements and Management Letter-Melanson and Heath/Frank Biron- Senior Partner

Frank Biron and Erica Lussier presented. Ms. Lussier reviewed the statements. She noted that the contributory retirement audit was performed by others but included in this report. The reports were reviewed with comments from the Council.

The report is on an accrual basis and includes the long-term assets land and construction in progress, buildings and infrastructure and liabilities and noncurrent long-term liabilities; the largest portion of which is bonds payable and OPEB future employment costs amortized over thirty years. She reviewed the changes that will occur in the next few years as a result of the GASBY67 & GASBY 68. 2018 GASBY45 will require the town to record full unfunded liability but in FY2015- GASBY 67& 68-the town is required to record unfunded liability of the pension system and it will have an impact on future statements of net assets. It will have a large impact on statement of net assets.

She reviewed the governmental funds financial statement and how the town maintains its books. It includes chief operating fund- General Fund and the grants, CPA and there are no significant changes to note. The fund balances include unassigned fund balances and general stabilization fund and bond rating. The rating agencies look for a range of 5-10% of the overall budget; Weymouth's is about 4%. She reviewed original and actual budget, and the variance. She reviewed the revenue surplus as a result of conservative estimating, the departmental turn-backs and town's use of free cash.

She also reviewed the proprietary funds (business activities) the enterprise funds, including long-term and capital projects related to water and sewer funds, and the unrestricted fund balance, which is inflated as it includes receivables not yet collected.

The fiduciary funds were reviewed; the fiduciary includes the scholarship funds. The OPEB and Pension Trust funds were reviewed. Pension had about 16.3% return rate for the year. She notes the town maintains good records and is very cooperative during the audit process.

Frank Biron reviewed the Management Letter. The auditors test areas of control and those particular items where improvements could be made. Significant problems, deficiencies or material weaknesses would be highlighted here. Weymouth's audit did not

produce any significant deficiencies; however, there are a few suggestions that require follow up. Four comments in total; two from the prior year and two new ones:

1. The town should develop a more formal risk assessment process and be more proactive in finding weaknesses. It has established a fraud policy and does discuss these risk areas in department head meetings, but it needs to be better documented.
2. It also needs to document policies and procedure and improve controls in place to track receipts at the department level.
3. It also needs to reconcile key balances with a dual signature procedure; it's not always documented as to who is performing bank, receivable or departmental receipt turnover reconciliations. All should require two sets of oversight.
4. DESE requires School Activity funds with cash flow of anything over \$25,000 be audited annually and the Town Auditor can perform the audit.
5. Due to the amount of federal funding the town receives, The Federal Compliance report of School Lunch and SPED spending was performed. It is in the summary stage and will be sent when completed, but there were no findings.

Councilor Hackett congratulated the administration on another very solid audit. This has been the largest success as a result in the change of form of government. She also congratulated William McKinney who has been performing dual duties as Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer.

Councilor Hackett asked if the report differentiates between whether it is one-time or recurring income. Ms. Lussier notes some was transferred to the Stabilization Fund.

Councilor McDonald asked if they anticipate any effect to town's bond rating. Ms. Lussier responded no; it's more in terms of general fund and enterprise- not just this town but all communities are dealing with this issue and Mr. Biron added that the bond rating agencies are aware of it.

Councilor Harrington asked if the OPEB liability is predicated on the town maintaining the current rate. Somerville made a unilateral decision to reduce its contribution and it was upheld by the supreme court. Mr. Biron responded that he couldn't comment; he is not an attorney. Councilor Harrington noted that now it is a precedent. Mr. Biron noted that the reason why the GASBY's were created was to open a dialog with the public. Councilor Harrington noted the town has been criticized periodically for having too much free cash returned asked if it should be redirected. What is a healthy amount? Mr. Biron responded that the bond rating agencies suggest 5%, and the town's threshold is at 4%.

President O'Connor thanked the auditors for their report.

District Priorities Program- Council President Patrick O'Connor

President O'Connor reported that he received suggestions from the District Councilors and the Mayor has received a copy. He will meet with the Mayor to discuss over the next few weeks.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR, TOWN OFFICERS AND TOWN BOARDS

15 014-Debt Exclusion Bonding for Various Capital Projects

CFO McKinney and Mayor Kay presented the request. Mayor Kay made some clarifications based on the public comment regarding the Administration not having a plan. She noted this is a plan, a capital funding project and they worked on it over six months. As to not having a budget presented first; the budget isn't due yet. This is a 2-part plan that voters deserve to have a crack at and is not frivolous. Many areas have to be addressed each year. They talk about infrastructure every year. This is a bonding plan and it was in place prior to the bad winter. There was a plan when Emery Estate was purchased; they could have had 52 units that would have to be serviced. The plan is on line on the town's website and there are recommendations. A plan presented for fields along with an open space and recreation plan. None of this is new. They must have a plan in order to relieve the rest of the fields and nothing small will work to move leagues. This plan addresses the needs of seniors, youth sports groups; they are not second-guessed plans. Capital is a separate plan outside of budget. The fire station, memorial wall and boiler replacement projects total over \$1 million and the town can't budget for it. Residents on a fixed income may not want it, but the public deserves a choice. Not to place it on a ballot would be unfair to all concerned.

CFO McKinney reminded the public that motor vehicle excise tax is due Friday, March 20, 2015.

CFO McKinney read the measure into the record:

“ORDERED, that \$3,000,000 is appropriated for the purpose of paying costs of designing and constructing a fire station to replace Fire Station #1, which shall either be a new fire station, or a new fire station with restored elements of the existing Fire Station #1, 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, Sections 7(3) and 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 the Project. No funds shall be borrowed or expended pursuant to this Order unless and until the Town shall have voted to exclude the amounts needed to repay the borrowing authorized by this Order from the limitations on local property taxes contained in Chapter 59, Section 21C of the General Laws (also known as Proposition 2 1/2).

FURTHER ORDERED, that \$1,350,000 is appropriated for the purpose of paying costs of making extraordinary repairs to the McCulloch Building, including but not limited to the replacement of the roof and the repair and refinishing of the gymnasium floor, 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 the Project. No funds shall be borrowed or expended pursuant to this Order unless and until the Town shall have voted to exclude the amounts needed to repay the borrowing authorized by this Order from the limitations on local property taxes contained in Chapter 59, Section 21C of the General Laws (also known as Proposition 2 1/2).

FURTHER ORDERED, that \$1,650,000 is appropriated for the purpose of paying costs of removing and replacing boilers at the Abigail Adams School and/or the Wessagussett Elementary School, as may be determined by the School Department, 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 the Project. No funds shall be borrowed or expended pursuant to this Order unless and until the Town shall have voted to exclude the amounts needed to repay the borrowing authorized by this Order from the limitations on local property taxes contained in Chapter 59, Section 21C of the General Laws (also known as Proposition 2 1/2).

FURTHER ORDERED, that \$600,000 is appropriated for the purpose of paying costs of making extraordinary repairs to the Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Wall, 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 8(10) 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 the Project. No funds shall be borrowed or expended pursuant to this Order unless and until the Town shall have voted to exclude the amounts needed to repay the borrowing authorized by this Order from the limitations on local property taxes contained in Chapter 59, Section 21C of the General Laws (also known as Proposition 2 1/2).

FURTHER ORDERED, that \$900,000 is appropriated for the purpose of paying costs of making extraordinary repairs to the Emery Estate, 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 the Project. No funds shall be borrowed or expended pursuant to this Order unless and until the Town shall have voted to exclude the amounts needed to repay the borrowing authorized by this Order from the limitations

on local property taxes contained in Chapter 59, Section 21C of the General Laws (also known as Proposition 2 1/2).

FURTHER ORDERED, that \$11,000,000 is appropriated for the purpose of paying costs of constructing and reconstructing Lovell Playground, including, but not limited to, the design and construction of: (i) three artificial turf fields, (ii) three basketball courts, (iii) a new skate park, (iv) parking areas, (v) wetlands enhancements, and (vi) a new children's playground; and the design and installation of lighting associated with each of the turf fields and basketball courts, 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. No funds shall be borrowed or expended pursuant to this Order unless and until the Town shall have voted to exclude the amounts needed to repay the borrowing authorized by this Order from the limitations on local property taxes contained in Chapter 59, Section 21C of the General Laws (also known as Proposition 2 1/2).

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to Chapter 59, Section 21C of the General Laws, the following question shall be placed upon the ballot for the next Town election:

Shall the Town of Weymouth be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to pay costs of: (i) designing and constructing a fire station to replace Fire Station #1, which shall either be a new fire station, or a new fire station with restored elements of the existing Fire Station #1, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, (ii) making extraordinary repairs to the McCulloch Building, including but not limited to the replacement of the roof and the repair and refinishing of the gymnasium floor, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, (iii) removing and replacing boilers at the Abigail Adams School and/or the Wessagussett Elementary School, as may be determined by the School Department, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, (iv) making extraordinary repairs to the Ralph Talbot Memorial Wall, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, (v) making extraordinary repairs to the Emery Estate, and (vi) constructing and reconstructing Lovell Playground, including, but not limited to, the design and construction of: three artificial turf fields, three basketball courts, a new skate park, parking areas, wetlands enhancements, and a new children's playground; and the design and installation of lighting associated with each of the turf fields and basketball courts, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto?

YES _____ NO _____ “

The Mayor summarized the request. These items would not be able to be funded within the budget. The town has not recovered since the last override plan failed.

Councilor Harrington read a prepared statement and noted he is not against supporting a referral of this matter:

“Every year when we set the tax rate, the assessor’s office provides us with a listing of dozens of surrounding towns showing their respective average residential tax bills. Every year, the Town of Weymouth appears as having the absolute lowest average residential tax bills of them all, clearly documenting that we have a serious revenue issue in Weymouth. It is obvious that Weymouth is the most underfunded Town in eastern Massachusetts, perhaps in the entire state.

This shortfall results in Town operating budgets that are insufficient to keep our street and playing fields in good repair. Our operating budget can’t support bonding to maintain all of our buildings and buy needed equipment. Our operating budget deficiencies have caused us to lose 30-40% of our fire and police and most important of all, revenue shortfalls leave us with insufficient funds to offer quality levels of education for our children. There is no fat in any department to cut and reallocate to the schools.

It has become glaringly apparent that the average Weymouth tax bill must be adjusted in an effort to provide funding that will sustain basic town services and maintain all of our facilities, roads and playing fields. We have little commercial tax revenue and the prospects of raising significant, substantial commercial tax revenues in the near future are at best minimal.

The police and fire Chiefs, the DPW Superintendent, the Superintendent of Schools and the school committee have testified that they need more funds in their operating budgets. The parents of our school children plead with us to find increases in operating funds for academics and athletics, for music, science, and math teachers and smaller class sizes.

Our Council President has created a Long Term Planning committee to investigate the needs of our Town and seek long term sustainable resolutions. In December that Committee met and related discussions ensued that included meeting operating needs with an operational 2 ½ override.

The proposal before us will address some needs that have arisen due to a lack of operating funds. Had operating funds been adequate in the past, many if not all of the cited needs could have been addressed by bonding for capital projects and proper maintenance of athletic fields and roads.

This proposal won’t replenish the decimated Fire and Police Departments. It won’t fix any streets or playing fields. It won’t add any science, math, music or any other teachers and it won’t reduce class sizes.

It is said that you can't go to the well too often. If we put this on the ballot, we won't be able to expect that an operational override would be accepted by our residents any time soon. They would feel like we ask them to do too much. It would reduce the probability of a success of an operational override in the near future. An operational override is a cure for operating fund deficiencies. The projects outlined in this request are the symptoms of a funding malady. This request is another inadequate, inappropriate band aid.

I will support the referral of this issue to the Budget Committee. It will provide an opportunity for meaningful dialogue regarding properly addressing the town's needs and will be useful for sharing information with each other and our constituents.

Thank you."

He appreciates Mayor Kay's efforts to do much with little. Every department is tasked with funding the services with very little, but this is something done after righting the ship- there is need to ...reconsider.

Vice President Smart asked about priorities two weeks ago and how this list came to be over other needs. Response was somewhat unclear. How is the priority list put together? Where do the children come in; where do the one time school needs. Why aren't they on here? He is disappointed with not having an operational override. An option to present to the residents. Why not for all departments? Many of them urged reconsideration but this is the same plan as two weeks ago. Why the change in direction from 2010?

Mayor Kay responded that this is a capital plan and not an operational override. She did not think she could get one through and the amount would be incredible. The town tried it for \$5 million and the school department took a major hit when it failed. As for EMS- bringing it in is good, but it is operational. She has asked for a reasonable plan showing it would not cost. This could go along with an operational audit. Only one Councilor brought forward priorities and it came from the capital list. Even after a temporary debt exclusion, Weymouth is still the lowest in the state. No one has ever asked her to put forward an operational override; she didn't realize there was a flavor for it. She felt it was easier to put a low-cost debt exclusion through.

Vice President Smart responded that she must have realized it would have to be a one shot deal; she could not go before the voters year after year with these requests. It's time to take a look at it and fund all departments properly. The school department only put two boilers in the plan but they have a \$5.9 deficit gap from last year to this according to information from their meeting the other night. He is disappointed with the plan presented. If this goes to the voters and doesn't pass, then what happens? How will the needs be addressed? Mayor Kay responded that she didn't think the Council would be in favor since they voted down a similar request by the school committee.

Councilor Lacey asked what she was referring to? In his memory the School Committee never presented a formal request for an operational override to the Town Council that was voted down. Vice President Smart reiterated that one of their representatives to get

the residents or the administration to put something forward. Mayor Kay respond that she would support it.

Councilor Haugh noted that if Weymouth had the same average tax bill as some of the surrounding towns, and she provided examples, it would have plenty to fund the operational budget along with the additional projects. She will support an override. She also asked for confirmation that air conditioning is included in the McCulloch building. CFO McKinney responded that it is covered in the wording “including, but not limited to...”

Councilor Conlon noted the Mayor presented a good plan. He does not agree with all components, but believes she wants to improve the quality of life for the residents.

Councilor DiFazio noted he was for a debt exclusion because he believes it could pass, but the departments will pit against each other over operational needs and it may end up failing.

Mayor Kay asked if the Council is looking for an operational override. President O'Connor responded that based on the responses it does appear to be the request. Councilor DiFazio noted that as part of the committee that reviewed it he would agree. Councilor Mathews suggested the Council needs to hear from the public at the hearing and may need a larger venue about which direction they would like this to take.

Councilor McDonald noted he was chair of the Board of Selectman when the last override (and the largest in the commonwealth) was put to a vote. Ultimately the voters are being asked to make the decision. He has no problem with supporting the request.

Councilor Lacey noted they have one shot at this- he suggested a menu based operational override in order to shore up funding for schools and public safety. The time is right; he recommended loading it up. This Council never took an official vote with regard to an override consideration. Mayor Kay responded that she would be happy once it is taken to the public. Councilor Lacey suggested timing is an issue and it could be a missed opportunity.

Councilor Harrington suggested they do not have enough information to make an informed opinion to bring before the voters. Part of it will be taking the time to develop it. They have the elements to bring it forward and establish what is needed and bring in employees, parents, as interested stakeholders who could become informed and pass along the message. There is a wealth of experience to tap. He does not want to rush into it so that the public is well informed and can make an educated decision. There are studies that indicate there is a correlation between property value and education. As a group, they are capable of getting it done.

Councilor Conlon noted that property values have increased 10% and this is an opportune time to do this.

Councilor Mathews agreed with the approach. The public needs to know what an operational override would cost and he would like to hear from them. They will also need to have a consensus between the administration, Council and the public before going to the voters.

Council Vice President Smart asked that when the Mayor meets with the department heads to include the Council President or representation from Council. Much like a budget, the Council can reduce it. Council Vice President asked if she is willing to amend it based on this discussion or discussion with the public. The Mayor responded she is not willing to amend as of yet.

Council President O'Connor reported that he did not anticipate this, although Councilor Harrington has been advocating it for years. The economic climate prevented action originally, but the economy is turning around and the town is in better position, so if there was ever a time, this is it. It was not a lack of vision but a lack of funding. It's horrible to have the lowest tax rate when every department is suffering. It's the same problem year after year and there is no wiggle room in the budget. The CPA was formed to cover costs that couldn't be addressed in an operational budget. The town is not to say this is the real problem; it's all financial. The best communities in the Commonwealth are the ones who do this. Mayor Kay responded that she would like nothing better than funding the departments as they should be.

A Motion was made by Vice President Smart to refer measure 15 014-Debt Exclusion Bonding for Various Capital Projects to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

15 015-Special Purpose Stabilization Fund- Legion Field

CFO McKinney presented the measure to raise and appropriate the sum of \$550,000 from the Special Purpose Stabilization Fund for Capital Projects (Fund 8352) for the purpose of funding the costs associated with the renovation of Legion Field.

A motion was made by Vice President Smart to refer measure 15 015 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. Councilor Mathews requested a recap sheet of revenue collected to date, and a cost breakdown per field with meals tax funds. Free cash certified in the fall was earmarked for this; why to date has there been no measure? CFO McKinney responded that \$300,000 came in last year when payments were received. This year the town received \$700,000 and we have to wait until it falls to free cash next year. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

15 016-CPC-Legion Field

CFO McKinney presented the measure to raise and appropriate the sum of \$640,000 from the Community Preservation Fund in the following amounts:

Fund Balance - Open Space	\$100,000
Fund Balance - Unreserved	\$300,000
General Reserve	\$240,000

To fund the costs associated with the renovation of Legion Field.

A Motion was made by Vice President Smart to refer the measure to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

15 017-Appointment to the Board of Elder Services-Christine McDonough

CFO McKinney requested on behalf of the Mayor that the Town of Weymouth appoints Christine McDonough of 70 Fuller Road to the Board of Elder Services for a term to expire on June 30, 2018.

A Motion was made by Vice President Smart to refer measure 15 017-Appointment to the Board of Elder Services-Christine McDonough to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Measures 15 018 – 15 030 were referred to committee in a bundled vote:

15 018-Reappointment to the Board of Elder Services-Dorothy Canniff

CFO McKinney requested on behalf of the Mayor that the Town of Weymouth reappoints Dorothy Canniff of 84 Madison Street to the Board of Elder Services for a term to expire on June 30, 2018.

A Motion was made by Vice President Smart to refer measure 15 018-Reappointment to the Board of Elder Services-Dorothy Canniff to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

15 019-Reappointment to the Historical Commission-Donald Matthewson

CFO McKinney requested on behalf of the Mayor that the Town of Weymouth reappoints Donald Matthewson of 9 Regatta Road to the Historical Commission for a term to expire on June 30, 2018.

A Motion was made by Vice President Smart to refer measure 15 019-Reappointment to the Historical Commission-Donald Matthewson to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

15 020-Reappointment to the Veteran's Council-Francine Nesson

CFO McKinney requested on behalf of the Mayor that the Town of Weymouth reappoints Francine Nesson of 19 Carroll Street to the Veterans Council for a term to expire on June 30, 2018.

A Motion was made by Vice President Smart to refer measure 15 020-Reappointment to the Veteran's Council-Francine Nesson to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

15 021-Reappointment to the Board of Health- Karen DeTellis

CFO McKinney requested on behalf of the Mayor that the Town of Weymouth reappoints Karen DeTellis of 8 Chauncey Street to the Board of Health for a term to expire on June 30, 2018.

A Motion was made by Vice President Smart to refer measure 15 021-Reappointment to the Board of Health- Karen DeTellis to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

15 022-Reappointment to the Board of Assessors-Paul Haley

CFO McKinney requested on behalf of the Mayor that the Town of Weymouth reappoints Paul Haley of 55 Cassandra Road to the Board of Assessors for a term to expire on June 30, 2018.

A Motion was made by Vice President Smart to refer measure 15 022-Reappointment to the Board of Assessors-Paul Haley to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

15 023-Reappointment to the WETC Board of Directors-Robert O'Connor

CFO McKinney requested on behalf of the Mayor that the Town of Weymouth reappoints Robert O'Connor of 513 East Street to the WETC Board of Directors for a term to expire on June 30, 2018.

A Motion was made by Vice President Smart to refer measure 15 023-Reappointment to the WETC Board of Directors-Robert O'Connor to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

15 024-Reappointment to the Conservation Commission-Thomas Tanner

CFO McKinney requested on behalf of the Mayor that the Town of Weymouth reappoints Thomas Tanner of 169 Park Avenue to the Conservation Commission for a term to expire on June 30, 2018.

A Motion was made by Vice President Smart to refer measure 15 024-Reappointment to the Conservation Commission-Thomas Tanner to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

15 025-Reappointment to the Board of Library Trustees-Donna Shea

CFO McKinney requested on behalf of the Mayor that the Town of Weymouth reappoints Donna Shea of 37 Heritage Avenue to the Board of Library Trustees for a term to expire on June 30, 2018.

A Motion was made by Vice President Smart to refer measure 15 025-Reappointment to the Board of Library Trustees-Donna Shea to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

15 026-Reappointment to the Recreation Commission-Karen Johnston

CFO McKinney requested on behalf of the Mayor that the Town of Weymouth reappoints Karen Johnston of 35 Clarendon Street to the Recreation Commission for a term to expire on June 30, 2018.

A Motion was made by Vice President Smart to refer measure 15 026-Reappointment to the Recreation Commission-Karen Johnston to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

15 027-Reappointment to the Housing Authority-Donald Sheehan

CFO McKinney requested on behalf of the Mayor that the Town of Weymouth reappoints Donald Sheehan of 145 Bald Eagle Road to the Housing Authority for a term to expire on June 30, 2020.

A Motion was made by Vice President Smart to refer measure 15 027-Reappointment to the Housing Authority-Donald Sheehan to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

15 028-Reappointment to the Board of Health-Richard Wetterberg

CFO McKinney requested on behalf of the Mayor that the Town of Weymouth reappoints Richard Wetterberg of 102 Ryder Road to the Board of Health for a term to expire on June 30, 2018.

A Motion was made by Vice President Smart to refer measure 15 028-Reappointment to the Board of Health-Richard Wetterberg to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

15 029-Reappointment to the Recreation Commission-Mark Kilban

CFO McKinney requested on behalf of the Mayor that the Town of Weymouth reappoints Mark Kilban of 12 Clinton Road to the Recreation Commission for a term to expire on June 30, 2018.

A Motion was made by Vice President Smart to refer measure 15 029-Reappointment to the Recreation Commission-Mark Kilban to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

15 030-Reappointment to the Waterfront Committee-Nancy Blazo

CFO McKinney requested on behalf of the Mayor that the Town of Weymouth reappoints Nancy Blazo of 23 Regatta Road to the Waterfront Committee for a term to expire on June 30, 2018.

A Motion was made by Vice President Smart to refer measure 15 030-Reappointment to the Waterfront Committee-Nancy Blazo to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Public Parks and Recreation Committee- Chair Jane Hackett

New Field Permitting Program

Update on Legion Field Opening and Permitting Fees

Field Maintenance Plan for the Spring and Summer

Councilor Hackett reported that the committee met on March 11, 2015. Members of the working group were present. Discussion included centralized maintenance, the new permitting program and plans for field maintenance. The field maintenance plan is in place. There is sufficient equipment for maintenance but there is concern staffing levels will be inadequate. They also discussed probable delays in field opening this spring.

A new permitting process was successfully implemented this spring. The new rates were generally well received by end users. The new practices reduced over-permitting on several of the fields. She reviewed the fee increases and added participant fees.

Legion Field is set to open late spring-early summer. The high school field opened on time. The opening will help the school department to utilize times and will open up evening use at both fields. The committee formed by the Mayor developed rental rates. They discussed establishing a revolving account to receive and expend funds. It is unclear who will be responsible for the maintenance of Legion Field. A handout was provided with a draft fee schedule and rationale per field. All items will remain in committee and they will report out further in the next two months on Legion Field maintenance and revolving funds. She briefly reviewed the handouts provided to the Council.

Councilor DiFazio asked if they anticipate bringing a final plan to the Council once everything has been finalized. Councilor Hackett responded yes.

Budget/Management Committee- Chair Michael Molisse

Chairman Michael Molisse reported that the committee met on March 16, 2015. None of the items were voted out of committee and will be continued to the April 6, 2015 Budget/Management Committee meeting.

15 003-FY2014 Audited Financial Statements and Management Letter

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on January 20, 2015. The committee met on March 16, 2015. The town auditor was absent for this presentation.

15 011-Debt Refinancing

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on March 2, 2015. The committee met on March 16, 2015. A public hearing was held on March 16, 2015.

NEW BUSINESS

15 013-Requested Change to Ordinance Section 120-22.8-Councilor Michael Smart

Vice President Smart noted that Mr. Montgomery Thomas submitted a citizen request to amend Ordinance Section 120-22.8, which was voted by the council at its meeting on March 2, 2015.

A Motion was made by Vice President Smart to refer measure 15 013-Requested Change to Ordinance Section 120.22.8 to the Ordinance Committee and the Planning Board, motion was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Town Council is scheduled for Monday, April 6, 2015. At 10:35 PM, there being no further business, a Motion was made by Vice President Smart to and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary



Approved by Council President Patrick O'Connor

Minutes Approved
unanimously on
6 April 2015

~~DRAFT~~