

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Abigail Adams Auditorium
89 Middle Street, Weymouth, MA 02189
Monday, May 13, 2013 at 7:00 PM

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

Also Present: Kathleen Deree, Town Clerk
Susan M. Kay, Mayor
George Lane, Town Solicitor
William McKinney, Chief Financial Officer
Michael Gallagher, Director, Administrative & Community Svcs.

Recording Secretary: Jody Lehrer

President Mathews called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.
Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Town Clerk Kathy Deree called the roll with all members present.

President Mathews noted that joining us this evening is Congressman Stephen Lynch. He introduced Lois Desmond, Chair of the Scholarship Committee.

Mayor Sue Kay thanked Congressman Lynch for attending and offering to hand out the scholarships. She also stated that everyone is proud of the students for receiving the scholarships.

Presentation of Scholarship Awards

Lois Desmond, Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, noted that the Committee has been awarding scholarships to Weymouth students for 21 years. The goal is to increase the amounts awarded and to award as many residents as possible. She noted that tonight 40 students are receiving awards, totaling \$44,600. The financial support from the many sponsors supplements taxpayer contributions. She asked that members of the Committee stand to be recognized.

She stated that Claire Cunningham, a Committee member since 1995, is retiring from the Committee. Ms. Cunningham has served as Treasurer on the Committee for most of the time. Ms. Cunningham went to the stage to receive recognition.

Mayor Kay noted that Ms. Cunningham has served on many committees over the years and presented Ms. Cunningham with a certificate of recognition.

Ms. Desmond, along with Congressman Lynch and Council President Mathews, then presented scholarships to the following town residents:

- Molly E. Barker - \$1500 George H. Player Memorial Scholarship
- Dillon D. Bocash - \$1000 Weymouth Garden Club Scholarship
- Sarah A. Coughlin - \$500 Fraternal Order of Eagles Weymouth Aerie 2899 Scholarship; and \$500 Town of Weymouth Scholarship
- Erin N. Craig - \$1000 William L. Concannon Memorial Scholarship
- Keison A. Cunningham - \$1000 Weymouth Town Taxi Scholarship
- Stephanie A. Davis - \$500 Weymouth Bank Scholarship; and \$500 Town of Weymouth Scholarship
- Timothy M. Dennehy - \$1000 Joseph I. Dalton Memorial Scholarship
- Michael D. Flaherty - \$1000 Electro Switch Corp. Scholarship in honor of Alexander MacLean
- Kelsey E. Gessner - \$1000 William and Florence McGrath Memorial Scholarship
- Sarah M. Hadar - \$1000 McDonald Keohane Funeral Homes Scholarship
- Rossy T. Herrera - \$500 Fraternal Order of Eagles Weymouth Aerie 2899 Scholarship; and \$500 Town of Weymouth Scholarship
- Thomas M. Hickey - \$2000 Salvatore and Maria Pizzi Family Foundation Scholarship
- Sarah E. Jaklitsch - \$500 Lions Club Scholarship; and \$500 Town of Weymouth Scholarship
- Natalie B. Kehlbeck - \$500 Thomas J. Kelly Memorial Scholarship; and \$500 Dunkin Donuts Scholarship
- John J. Landers - \$500 DeLuze Collision Center; and \$500 Town of Weymouth scholarship
- Amanda R. Newell - \$500 Rockland Federal Credit Union Scholarship; and \$500 Town of Weymouth Scholarship
- Nolan W. Parsely - \$500 Richard W. Walsh III Memorial Scholarship; and \$500 Town of Weymouth Scholarship
- Isabella M. Perfetuo - \$1000 Michael J. Murphy Memorial Scholarship
- Rachel V. Riccuiti - \$1000 Connie G. Passero Memorial Scholarship
- Jill E. Riley - \$2600 Weymouth Club Scholarship
- Michaela J. Stuart - \$1000 Joseph P. and Rosemary Flynn Memorial Scholarship
- Lauren M. Timmins - \$500 Weymouth High School Class of 1963 Scholarship; and \$500 Town of Weymouth Scholarship
- Mark A. Vitello - \$1000 Electro Switch Corp. Scholarship in honor of Mario Ranieri
- Kayla S. White - \$1000 Quincy Credit Union Scholarship
- Randi Alison Whitham - \$2000 Salvatore and Maria Pizzi Family Foundation Scholarship

For students presently attending college, scholarships were awarded as follows:

- James M. Callahan, \$1000 Electro Switch Scholarship
- Danielle M. Conneely - \$1000 Town of Weymouth Scholarship
- Brianna M. Cummings - \$1000 David G. Noble Memorial Scholarship;
- Sydney Galvin - \$1000 Town of Weymouth Scholarship
- Benjamin N. Goodwin - \$1000 Town of Weymouth Scholarship
- Lauren K. Hultin - \$500 Trapani + Associates Inc.; and \$500 Town of Weymouth Scholarship
- Kara Kelly – \$1000 Ruth B. Sylvester Memorial Scholarship
- Connor P. McLaughlin - \$1000 Town of Weymouth Scholarship
- Dennis J. Muldoon - \$1000 Town of Weymouth Scholarship
- Sheighlin P. Rose - \$1000 Town of Weymouth Scholarship
- Kelly S. Young - \$2000 Town of Weymouth Scholarship

For residents returning to college for retraining or to further their college education, the following scholarships were awarded:

- Paul L. Belmonte - \$1000 Town of Weymouth Scholarship
- Lindsay M. DeGabriele - \$1000 Town of Weymouth Scholarship
- Rachel E. Grant - \$1000 Town of Weymouth Scholarship
- Doris M. Sault-DePaiz - \$500 Town of Weymouth Scholarship

President Matthews next introduced Congressman Stephen Lynch to give a brief Congressional update. President Mathews thanked Congressman Lynch for attending.

Congressman Stephen Lynch

Congressman Lynch thanked Weymouth officials for their invitation.

He noted that he is happy to be part of the Weymouth delegation. He said that the House is discussing the Boston Marathon bombings and that he is on the Oversight and Investigations Committee and they are currently holding public hearings on the subject. Congressman Lynch said that just this morning an agreement was signed between the Boston Police Department and State Department to educate law enforcement working with federal departments overseas on matters concerning international and homeland security as part of lessons learned from the Boston Marathon bombings.

Another issue being examined by the House Oversight Committee is the Bengasi attack investigation September 11, 2012, of which Congressman Lynch sits on that committee. He said that there are questions that should be answered. There will be witnesses next week on the armed services response from the detachments involved in the area on September 11, 2012.

Other investigations are underway such as those relating to the IRS unfairly targeting organizations based on political beliefs. Congressman Lynch noted that if the allegations are true then those responsible must be held responsible for their actions. The Inspector General of the United States Treasury Department is currently investigating.

Congressman Lynch is working on legislation and hearings he requested regarding the high cost of cancer medications and pharmaceuticals. Despite major breakthroughs in cancer treatment, most of these medicines range in price from \$90,000 to \$100,000 per year. When the drugs first came out they were about \$30,000 per year. One would think that as more purchases were made, the costs would decrease. In fact, costs have tripled in the few years they have been on the market. Hearings will be held in the near future on this subject.

Congressman Lynch thanked residents for supporting him during the election. Lynch said he is proud to represent the families of Weymouth.

Overview of Legislative Activities for Fiscal Year 2013

President Mathews read the following prepared statement:

*“Good evening and thank you for attending our Annual Town Meeting.
Congratulations to all of the scholarship recipients.*

Pursuant to Section 6-6 of the Town Charter, the Town Council President shall deliver an update on the legislative activities of the Council, for fiscal 2013—which commenced on July 1, 2012.

The Town Council has held a total of 53 meetings to date for fiscal year 2013. This includes regularly scheduled Town Council Meetings, Special Town Council Meetings, and numerous meetings of the 10 committees under the jurisdiction of the Council.

As the legislative branch of government, the Town Council is responsible for approving measures, new appointments and reappointments, town ordinances, and the operating budget for the town, as submitted by Mayor Kay. The Council, while deliberating over the budget, and pursuant to the town charter, cannot increase, but can only reduce the budget.

I would like to take a moment to highlight several measures, which were addressed by the Town Council during fiscal 2013. The Council, who formulated a host community agreement, with funding from the special purpose stabilization fund, earmarked the following projects. This fund was established, at the request of Town Council, in order to segregate mitigation monies received from Southfield:

- *Thermal imager for the Fire Department in the amount of \$7,500*
- *Fogg Library Phase III interior renovations and site improvements totaling \$200,000*
- *Approval of funding to begin town sidewalk repairs in the amount of \$150,000*
- *Construction and design plans for Legion Field and Pingree in the amount of \$400,000*
- *Purchase of a new dump truck (equipped with a sander and plow), new street sweeper and new catch basin cleaner for the department of public works personnel-totaling \$510,000*

Other items authorized by the Town Council include:

- *Replacement of computers/library books in the amount of \$62,265 for the town's libraries, to ensure compliance to mandates issued by the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners*
- *Exterior repairs in the amount of \$20,000 to the Tufts Library*
- *Additional funding for Veteran benefits for \$25,000*
- *Replacement of a maintenance vehicle for the school department for \$20,616*
- *\$200,000 for repair and replacement of several boiler systems in the public schools*
- *Replacement of 6 police cruisers in the amount of \$205,000*
- *Awarding of a new three year contract to Melanson, Heath and Company to perform the town's external audit*
- *Approval of the reappointment and appointment of 42 members to various town committees*
- *The Town Council spearheaded and successfully implemented a temporary moratorium as related to the passage of the medical marijuana ballot question. This effort affords the town time to effectively and safely implement this legislation*
- *Approved a local meals excise in an effort to bring much needed revenue to the town*
- *Emery Estate access parking design plans for \$90,000*
- *Authorized creation of a harbormaster revolving account to track expenditures involved in the construction of the Fore River Bridge*

Currently under consideration by the Council is the purchase of a new fire engine in the amount of \$613,000.

Our Town Auditor, Richard Swanson, conducted 12 internal department audits during fiscal year 2013 and issued his reports to Council and the Mayor. He coordinates the independent audit of the town's books & records, in conjunction with Melanson Heath and Company (our external auditors). Their audit report on fiscal year 2012 was presented to Council for questions and acceptance. The auditor provides analyses and detailed questions on the Mayor's proposed budget, which are reviewed in depth during Budget/Management committee meetings.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to my fellow Councilors, the employees of the Council and Clerk's Offices, Mayor Susan Kay, her Administration, and the School Department for their ongoing efforts.

Additionally, I would like to extend my appreciation to the residents of the Town of Weymouth, who by their valuable input at meetings during public hearings have brought to light important issues, and have illustrated the true definition of democracy. The Council appreciates your participation in local government.

Thank you for your attention this evening.”

President Mathews recognized Vice President O’Connor to continue the agenda.

Public Hearings

13 068-General Government Annual Appropriation

13 069-Revolving Accounts Annual Appropriation

13 070-Gift Accounts Annual Authorization

13 071-Unpaid Bills

13 072-Free Cash-FY13 Snow Removal Appropriation

13 073-Free Cash-SPED Out-Of-District Tuition

13 074 Free Case Firefighter Raises

13 075 Free Cash-OPEB Valuation

13 076 Health Insurance Unexpended Balance

13 077-Free Cash-OPEB Liability Trust Fund

13 078-Sewer Enterprise Fund Annual Appropriation

13 079-Sewer Retained Earnings-Capital Equipment

13 080-Sewer Retained Earnings-Pump Station Improvements

13 081-Sewer Retained Earnings-Sewer System I/I Rehabilitation

13 082-Water Enterprise Fund Annual Appropriation

13 083-Water Reserve Fund-AJB Fence Replacement

13 084-Water Retained Earnings-Capital Equipment

13 085-Water Retained Earnings-Water Main Improvements

13 086-Community Preservation Committee Annual Appropriation

A MOTION was made by Councilor O’Connor to OPEN the Public Hearing on items **13 068** through **13 086**, inclusive, and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Fiscal Year 2014 Budget

Mayor Kay read the “State of the Town” message. She first thanked everyone including Congressman Lynch. The theme of the Annual Meeting is accomplishment through public private partnering. She wants to focus on progress made with few resources and through partnering. She noted, for example, that the Substance Abuse Program partners with safety departments, and that the town partners with youth sports groups to maintain fields. Weymouth is a community that cares about each other. Department heads will speak to partnering efforts. Goals include providing level service, funding more capital projects, and maintaining and improving public spaces.

Mayor Kay introduced department directors as follows:

Sue Barnes, Director of Elder Affairs.

Ms. Barnes noted that the “boomers are coming,” and stated that by 2030, one out of every 5 people in the nation will be an older adult. She noted that Weymouth is second only to Quincy in terms of the numbers of people served. Ms. Barnes identified several resources relied on to serve senior citizens in Weymouth including the federal Community Development Block Grant, a state grant, the town budget, and other monetary and in-kind donations.

She noted that community partners have played a huge role in DES’s success, citing the Weymouth Rotary, Weymouth Bank, and other entities.

Ms. Barnes thanked all of the partners and noted that the growing maturing population will require more including additional hires, more rides, additional housing, nutrition, health care, and caregiving services. There are currently 11,386 seniors in Weymouth, America is aging and aging rapidly. The boomers have arrived and we had better be prepared.

Dan McCormack –Department of Public Health

Mr. McCormack spoke about the Wellness Program and the Substance Abuse Program. He noted that for both programs the department partners with various entities. For example, for the Wellness Program the department partners with South Shore Hospital, local doctor offices, Manet Community Health, and for the Substance Abuse Program partners include South Bay Mental Health and the Norfolk County District Attorney’s Office.

Jim Clarke, Director, Department of Planning and Community Development.

The department is going forward with access and parking at the Emery Estate and he has met with Greg Watson, Commissioner of the Department of Agricultural Resources, to discuss community supported farming at the estate. A request for proposal for design and construction at Pingree and Legion Fields will go out next week, with a contractor expected to be in place by July. The department is partnering with private enterprises with R.K. Plaza to approve traffic signals at that location. At Libbey Parkway and Middle Street, the department is partnering with business for new traffic signals. Using block grant funds, the department will repave the play area and walkways at Seach School. Partnering has occurred with neighbors, council, and the zoning board to obtain approval for zoning changes regarding the Clapp Memorial Building. The department is working with businesses on design guidelines along Washington Street. In Weymouth Landing, the department partnered with Braintree to complete the PWED project enabling streetscape improvements. A preconstruction meeting was held this morning pertaining to interior work at Fogg Library.

Rob McLean, Director Library Services

Mr. McLean stated that 500 children participate in the summer reading program and that participation in the teen program is up 114%. The adult program expects 1300 participants in 2013. With more funding the library could focus on English as a second language, additional computers, and early literacy. Almost 1400 e-books will be checked out this year. The library is helping to share Weymouth’s history including a letter from Abigail Adams.

Jeff Bina, Director, Department of Public Works

The DPW has made improvements including sidewalk enhancements on West Street and Norton Street, park improvements, repairs to Iron Hill Dam, and repairs to seawalls. DPW also focuses on economic and efficient normal operations in addition to completing the aforementioned projects.

Dr. Kenneth Salim, Superintendent of Weymouth Schools

The School Department has accomplished much relating to the curriculum in Weymouth Public Schools (WPS) using current funding. Investments were made in curriculum materials at the primary level – pre-K – and the k-4 program. Additional funds would allow for modernizing middle school programs and more. The department was able to invest in athletics for the first time in many years including purchasing of upgraded uniforms and

new equipment. Additional funds would enable the department to invest in curricular activities like arts, music and theater.

For first time this year, the WPS system was a member of AP Honor Roll. The department is looking to expand its AP program and its STEM program (science, technology, engineering and math program) to ensure preparation for post secondary programs. There are unprecedented requirements on WPS from the state around educator evaluation, English language learners, special education, and more.

Joseph Davis, Chief, Weymouth Fire Department

The department has reached over 1,000 students per year through the SAFE program, student awareness of fire education. More trained staff would allow for more children to be reached. Deaths of children under 18 have dropped 70% in Massachusetts since 1995, when the program started. The department has trained 270 Weymouth high school students and 25 soccer coaches in CPR. The department has a successful Narcan program allowing restoration of breathing to persons who overdose on opiate drugs such as heroine, morphine, oxycontin, percocet, vicodin, and morphine. The department has successfully administered Narcan 18 times.

Richard Grimes, Chief, Weymouth Police Department

There are more services the department could provide but is not able to given the current funding allocation. For example, there is a need for more selective motor vehicle enforcement including commercial vehicle enforcement. Truck traffic is not always in compliance. Traffic complaints are significant.

Among the efforts undertaken by the department is narcotics enforcement. Another important department priority is educating youth on bus safety and other safety issues. The safety officer is often called upon to provide patrol coverage and is unavailable. The Junior Police Academy helps forge relationships at an early age and aids in fostering mutual respect between students and police. Providing high visibility of officers in the town squares is well received and successful. Officers must continue to learn the concerns of the business community and to provide high visibility.

Mayor Kay stated that she is submitting the 2014 budget in accordance with the Town Charter. The budget utilizes revenue sources that the Mayor deems appropriate. The budget is balanced in the amount of \$139,610,403. The budget meets level service requirements for all departments except for: Police, Library, and DPW.

Revenue sources include:

- State cherry sheet
- Real estate taxes
- Motor vehicle excise taxes
- Other sources available to the Town of Weymouth

Increases in revenue for FY 2014 in the amount of \$4,491,132 to the Town of Weymouth will be derived from the following sources:

- State aid
- Revenues from receipts generated by contracts in place between the Town of Weymouth and the South Shore Tri- Town Development Corporation; and
- Increased property taxes allowed under Proposition 2 ½

Majority of increased revenues is from property taxes under Proposition 2 ½.

It was noted that fixed costs continue to increase and are attributable to increases in: pensions, benefits and insurance, debit services attributable to water and sewer debt increases; state and county assessments; liability insurance; town's maintenance costs for Pond Meadow Park; and veterans' benefits.

After accounting for these non-discretionary increases, there remains only \$2,449,789 to allocate to departments. After assessing needs of the town and meeting with departments, Mayor Kay allocated funds while attempting to meet state mandated increases for schools and libraries. Of the remaining revenues, Mayor Kay allocated to schools (\$1,584,777), leaving \$865,012 to divide among twenty departments. Although school funding does not meet the requested funding amount, it exceeds level funding. Funding was allocated among Police Department (\$267,261); Fire Department (\$6048); DPW (\$266,895); Department of Library Services (\$116,435); human services (including five departments, such as elder services and youth and family) (\$24,954 among all five departments); and all other departments such as planning, licensing, information services, and others (\$183,423).

The mMyor stated that we do a lot with little. If revenue projections change for the better, the Mayor will supplement the budget.

Presentation of Budget - William McKinney, Chief Financial Officer

Bill McKinney showed part of a video of boy scouts enacting a public hearing on budgeting. Mr. McKinney stated that the video was not meant to offend and that the video was part of a cinematography merit badge project.

The FY 2014 budget reflects almost level funding from FY 2013. Mr. McKinney noted that as to revenues almost half of the FY 2014 budget is derived from property taxes.

Revenue changes shows revenues are up by \$4,500,000. Mr. McKinney compared local aid over several fiscal years and noted that for FY 2014 local aid will go up only \$926,000. He noted that we rely on the state for quite a bit of the town's funding.

As to expenses, the school department represents 42%, followed by pension and benefits at 22%.

Mr. McKinney noted that health insurance is on the rise at 4%, along with pension contributions at 4%, and state assessments at 5%.

As to operating expenses as percent of overall budget, 57% is education, 43% is general government.

Education Reform Act requires certain expenditure levels year after year, called net school spending (NSS). Mr. McKinney noted that we do not yet know what the required spending will be in FY 2014.

NSS cannot include costs to transport children or debt service for school buildings, nor can the spending count health insurance for retired teachers.

Sixty percent of school districts are allowed count health insurance for retirees: Weymouth is among the 40% that cannot—the total amount that cannot count towards net school spending is \$11.2 million dollars.

Penalties are imposed only if deficit in NSS exceeds 5% of required spending. The town's shortfall is within the five percent range and we are not breaking the law.

Since FY 2009, the town has spent \$5 million dollars for capital projects. Such expenses, despite benefiting students, do not count towards NSS.

Mr. McKinney reviewed the revenues and legal requirements for expenditures relating to the Community Preservation Fund.

The town is doing well with regard to collective bargaining agreements.

Mr. McKinney stated that free cash is revenue that exceeds the budget and unspent funds from budgeted line items. Free cash is an indicator of fiscal health and that free cash should equal 3-5% of the budget. This would amount to \$4 to \$6 million dollars. Free cash plays a role in our credit rating.

FY 2014 considerations include no planned water and sewer rate increases or trash removal rate increases.

FY 2013 single family tax bill for Weymouth residents is \$3,634, the lowest in Norfolk County.

It was noted that this evening's powerpoint presentation may be viewed on the town of Weymouth's website.

The Mayor stated that the budget is a serious matter. She said that she accepts Mr. McKinney's apology.

She said the budget is limited to providing level services. She knows that residents want more. She said there is need for such things as new fields and open space, new equipment and vehicles, seawalls, structural work on roads, and seawalls. She noted that the town has done a good job on keeping taxes as low as possible. The Mayor noted that the federal and state governments are cutting many grants and that the obligations come back to the town.

Mayor Kay said that the town will enter into a new contract on July 1, 2013 on solid waste. Weymouth will have weekly recycling – one for trash and one for recycling. There will be an automated system with dedicated receptacles. The only difference you will see is the color of the trucks. In the mean time everything will remain the same, trash fees will not increase as a result of the contract. The incentive to increase recycling will lessen the tonnage needed to be picked up. The budget overall is balanced and solid.

President Mathews stated that public comments would be taken first from those who had signed up to speak. Afterwards, other persons not signed up may speak.

Robert Montgomery Thomas of 848 Washington Street

OPEB accounts for approximately \$236 million of unfunded liability for retired town workers. This represents 23% of the town's budget, or about \$31 million per year for a lifetime of paid health care benefits and pensions for the retired town workers. The town should be setting aside millions of dollars a year from the operating budget to cover these future benefit obligations.

Mr. Thomas further stated that property taxes will have to increase to cover this increase. Tax increases are limited by Proposition 2 ½, but the town uses a calculation referred to as so called "new growth" to increase taxes to higher levels (he cited this year's 3.47% residential increase). To maintain OPEB, either taxes have to be increased significantly, or spending cuts have to be made to town services in the very near future.

He cited South Shore Hospital and the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation report. He questions why no one has approached South Shore hospital to obtain more revenue through the PILOT payments. He further discusses a report released by the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation on 2/15/11 which sets forth an analysis of municipal retiree healthcare liabilities in Massachusetts. The report concludes that retiree healthcare costs and benefits have eroded local budgets, and this will be much worse as health care costs continue to increase.

Anne Hilbert of 45 Doris Drive

Believes that the town should conduct a forensic audit as was conducted as South Field.

Gus Pérez of 16 Hewett Road

Referring to the videotape shown, Mr. Perez asked who knew about the content of the videotape presentation. It was stated that Mr. McKinney was the only one aware of the video content.

Mr. Pérez noted that Weymouth is one of 18 communities that has not meet net school spending requirements for the year.

He referred to a news article intended to help families with young children decide which are the most favorable south shore towns in which to reside. One question in the article asked, “Do you care about schools?” Mr. Perez noted that if one answers “no” to this question, one would be referred to Weymouth. He stated that the community has “zero” involvement in the budget.

President Mathews disagreed with the statement that residents don’t have a role in the town budget- stating that we are holding a public hearing tonight, and that speakers are not limited to five minutes, as the Council Rules indicate, pointing out that previous speakers have well exceeded the 5 minute rule.

Irving Murstein of 463 Broad Street

He questioned the inclusion on his Verizon bill of a tax on utility poles.

Regina Barton of 27 Pointsetta Avenue

She referred to the town’s not meeting the net school-spending requirement. She urged the Town Council to reject the FY 2014 budget.

George Berg of 74 Summer Street

He noted that this meeting is the one time to speak in front of town administration. He said that there are lots of positive things that go on in Weymouth. Mr. Berg said that the numbers don’t lie but despite that his children are getting an excellent education.

He stated that we do have little power right now that the budget has been submitted. He said that it is not likely that the Town Council will send the budget back to the Mayor. He urged that the town look at new sources of revenue.

He noted that Weymouth is one of the oldest municipalities in the Commonwealth. He wondered why state legislators gives us so little funding and why we are being treated this way.

Belinda McGuire of 81 Holmes Avenue

She states that the town needs to meet the net school-spending requirement. She questions a proposition 2 ½ tax increase. She stated that the teachers in Weymouth are already doing a lot with a little.

Marylou Buell (non resident-President WTA)

She stated that she is the president of the Weymouth Teachers Association. She said that by accepting aid from the state through Chapter 70, the district promises to allocate enough local funding to meet foundation budget levels. The obligation is known as net school spending.

She said that the argument that Weymouth is doing okay even though it doesn’t meet net school spending is not supported by data. She notes that the WTA urges the Town Council to reject the budget and to request a new budget which meets the net school-spending obligation.

Kathleen Curran of 26 Babcock Avenue

She stated that she is disappointed with tonight’s turnout. She is advocating to meeting the net school spending requirements. She said that families are not coming to Weymouth, but rather are leaving. They have no faith in the town or in its public education.

EJ Nordstrom of 250 Roosevelt Road

He noted that we have a revenue problem. He urged the town to look at ways “outside the box” to raise revenues. He said it is ironic that the sign in the school auditorium reads “aim for excellence” but that the town is striving for “level.”

MOTION to suspend Rule 26a was made by Councilor O’Connor- to limit public hearings to three hours. Motion seconded by Councilor Smart and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Christopher Primiano of 82 Rindge Street

He stated that the town is “underwater” due to failure to meet net spending requirements. He said we have extra money at the end of the year, which falls to free cash, and should budget it for schools. He urged exploring additional revenue streams.

Pam Oliver of 53 Greenvale Avenue

She is concerned that the town is not meeting net school spending requirements. She stated that this means that her children are getting “ripped off.”

Trish Pries of 15 Woodbine Road

She questioned whether \$4 million dollars out of a budget of \$52 million would make that big of a difference in school performance.

Jennifer Weiss-Donovan of 4 Payne Avenue

She stated that she represents the Hamilton School parent council. She urged that the Town Council not support a budget that does not meet net school spending requirements.

Katheryn Wetherby

She stated that Mr. Perez described cause and effect related to not meeting net school spending requirements and is in agreement.

AnnMarie O’Keefe of 11 Bell Road

She said that the Academy Avenue School was a “blue ribbon” school and was the school where you wanted your child to go. She said now nobody wants to move here.

Maryellen Devine of 11 Maltby Lane

She stated that the budget needs to be rewritten and should not pass as is.

MOTION by Vice President O’Connor to suspend Rule 24a to limit town council meeting time going past 11:00 P.M. Motion seconded by Councilor Smart and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Robert Montgomery Thomas (second time speaking)

Believes the town should look to attract commercial properties to the town to increase the tax base. He questioned why he pays the same fee for one small bag of trash that his neighbor who puts out ten barrels a week pays. He said the town should move to a “pay as you throw” system. This would raise revenue.

President Mathews noted that the Council has taken steps to attract commercial business. For example, the Council changed the zoning in Libbey Industrial Park to attract business to allow medial office use. Now the park is nearly full. He also said that 1090 Washington Street involved taking down a dilapidated property and putting in a new commercial property.

Wayne Mathews of 33 Whitman Street

He asked what happens if the budget is rejected.

Solicitor George Lane noted that the budget is in process. It is up to the Council to adopt the budget under 6.6 of the charter. The Town Council shall adopt the budget with or without amendments. The Council may delete or decrease programs, except expenditures required by law or for debt service, but has no ability to add to it. Mr. Lane stated that should Council fail to adopt the budget, the budget goes through and is accepted without action.

If there is reduction in the school budget, which is a line item, and there is no corresponding amendment to the overall budget, then that is of no effect. If you reduce the school budget and you reduce by not adopting and reduce the bottom line of the budget then you have no school budget.

The question is that, it has been fully explained, as far as adopting the budget is concerned, expenditure as required by law as indicated by previous speakers, it is the Town Council's duty to fund the public schools under Chapter 70 and Chapter 71. Mr. Lane further cautioned that the Council is in a situation where if you fail to adopt the budget, there will be a very serious situation.

Councilor Lacey questioned Mr. Lane and requested clarification that if the council votes the budget down it is adopted as such by the Mayor; to which Solicitor Lane affirmed this statement.

Mr. Gus Perez (second time speaking)

He questions that in light of this legal opinion what is the point of the Town Council existing as part of the budget process? He said that the Town Council has the ability to call a Special Town Council meeting and issue resolution saying it will not support the budget because it does not meet net school spending requirements.

Mayor Kay - Closing Remarks

She cautioned that we should think about what is being proposed. She asked whether the Council were to make a statement, how does this help any of the departments including schools?

Mayor Kay noted that there is an increase in the school department budget this year and that last year we met net school spending. She said that someone needs to prove to her that the schools were all that much better. Our enrollment has stayed steady over the past several years.

She said she knows that the school department needs more money but that other departments need more revenue such as fire and police. She noted that the other departments are not more important than education but in line with education. She said that we are a town not one department and her goal is not to make a statement but provide services town-wide.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION to Close the Public Hearings on measures 13-068 through 13-086 was made by Vice President O'Connor and seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

At 11:30 there being no further business, a MOTION to Adjourn was made by Vice President O'Connor and seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by Jody Lehrer, Recording Secretary

Approved by Arthur Mathews, Town Council President