

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
ABIGAIL ADAMS AUDITORIUM
MONDAY, MAY 14, 2012**

Present Arthur Mathews, President
 Patrick O'Connor, Vice President
 Kenneth DiFazio, Chairman
 Jane Hackett, Councilor
 Michael Molisse, Councilor
 Michael Smart, Councilor
 Robert Conlon, Councilor
 Kenneth DiFazio, Councilor
 Ed Harrington, Councilor
 Thomas J. Lacey, Councilor
 Brian M. McDonald, Councilor-tardy 8:05 p.m.

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

Not Present Victor Pap III

Recording Secretary: Ann Flynn Dickinson

President Mathews called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Kathy Deree called the roll with Councilors Pap and McDonald not present.

Scholarship Committee Member to Retire

Mayor Kay and Lois Desmond (Chair of Scholarship Committee) presented. Mayor Kay made the announcement of Scholarship Committee member Elaine DeCosta who has retired from the Scholarship Committee. Ms. DeCosta was instrumental in starting the town's scholarship program and has enabled children and adults to attend college.

Elaine DeCosta was presented an award noting her service --she has previously served as recording secretary and awards committee member.

Presentation of Scholarship Awards

President Mathews invited Mayor Kay and Lois Desmond for presentation of scholarships.

It was noted that in total 182 residents applied for the scholarships. The 182 applications were scored and 38 citizens were chosen. The total amount to be awarded is \$37,000-- there was an increase in applicants this year. The committee was able to obtain four new sponsors this year. Their long time sponsor Weymouth Club increased its donation this year. The committee will continue its outreach in the future for Weymouth residents helping Weymouth obtain scholarships. Stockholders and Weymouth Bank are new sponsors this year. The following recipients were presented scholarships:

Juliane Atwater	\$1,000 (unable to attend)
Paul Abbene	\$1,000 Joseph I Dalton Memorial Scholarship
Rachel Anderson	\$500 Weymouth Bank
Jessica Belzano	\$1,000 (unable to attend)
Jennifer Borkowski	\$1,000 Weymouth Garden Club
Brendan Butler	\$500 Salvatore Tollo Memorial
Kelly Coleman	\$1,000
Katie Ann Coleman	\$500 Lions Club and \$500 Town of Weymouth
Kodie Crawford	\$500 (in Thailand)
Matthew Dickson	\$1,000 Weymouth Town Taxi
Corey Dirksmeier	\$1,000 (unable to attend)
Christopher Dorn	\$500 Town of Weymouth and \$500 Lions Club/Edward Sweeney
McKenzie Finn	\$500 Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 2899
Kelly E. Garrity	\$500 Paternity order of Eagles Aerie 2899
James E. Golden	\$1,000 Electroswitch Corp.
Zachary T. Hanrahan	\$500 Stockholders Restaurant Scholarship
Lauren Hultin	\$1,500
Michael Jaklitsch	\$1,000 (unable to attend)
Kurt L. Joyce	\$500 Town of Weymouth and \$500 Richard W. Walsh III Memorial
Kara Kelley	\$1,000 Ruth B. Sylvester Memorial Scholarship (unable to attend)
Amy Kirsch	\$1,000 David G. Noble Memorial
Connor McLaughlin	\$2,500 Weymouth Club
Connor T. Muldoon	\$500 Town of Weymouth and \$500 Rockland Fed Credit Union
Dennis Muldoon	\$2,000
Shauna Newcomb	\$2,000
Min Tan Nguyen	\$500 Thomas J. Kelly Memorial Scholarship
Khelsea O'Brien	\$1,000
Kaitlynn O'Leary	\$1,000
May F. Perriello	\$1,000 William Concannon Memorial Scholarship
Kyle J. Ripley	\$1,000 Connie Passerio Memorial Scholarship
Soraya M. Rosso	\$500 Dunkin Donuts
Peter Salhaney	\$1,000 Michael J. Murphy Memorial Scholarship
Benjamin Stuart	\$1,000 William & Florence McGrath Memorial Scholarship
Jessica Stuart	\$500 (not with us) Trapani & Assoc.
Julie Tevenan	\$500 Tollo Family Scholarship
Melanie R. Walker	\$1,000 Joseph P and Rosemary Flynn Memorial Scholarship
Lauren H. Weissmeyer	\$1,500 George Player Memorial Scholarship

Justin Williams \$500 Deluze Collision Center Scholarship

Council President Mathews announced the next item on the agenda is an overview of the legislative activities for Fiscal Year 2012. He proceeded to introduce the members of the Council.

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 2012 – which commenced on July 1, 2011.

The Town Council held a total of 51 meetings to date for fiscal year 2012. This includes regularly scheduled Town Council Meetings, Special Town Council Meetings, and numerous meetings of the 10 committees under the jurisdiction of the Town Council.

As the legislative branch of government, the Town Council is responsible for approving town ordinances, measures, appointments 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.

Despite the challenges of funding received from the state, in addition to the current state of the economy, although improved from last year, President Mathews is proud to report that the town has successfully managed to make measurable improvements and approve funding for several long –standing capital projects.

He highlighted measures which were addressed in fiscal year 2012:

The Council approved funding for extensive improvements to the town’s infrastructure for various locations in town, as evidenced by approval of funding totaling \$250,000, to begin initial repairs to the Fort Point Road seawall, resultant from the toll of past storms.

Other significant improvements to the town’s infrastructure were:

replacement of the roof at the Teen Center and accompanying masonry repairs, totaling \$250,000, re-roofing of the police station at a cost of \$950,000, upgrade of the HVAC system at the Pratt Library in the amount of \$100,000, DPW building repairs \$235,000, new salt shed at DPW in the amount of \$300,000, sidewalk repairs \$150,000, drainage repairs \$100,000, Iron Hill Dam repair \$480,000, lower central interceptor sewer main project \$3m

Mr. Mathews noted that the following projects were approved for the Weymouth Public Schools: bond authorization totaling \$849,896 for replacement of the roof of the Abigail Adams School, \$550,000 bond authorization for replacement of the boiler system at the Seach School, approval of bond funding in the amount of \$600,000 for repairs to the Wessagussett School roof and replacement of the doors and windows at the Hamilton School, totaling \$500,000.

Mr. Mathews also stated that the Town Council initiated and approved the creation of a special purpose stabilization fund for the purpose of funding capital projects. Approval of the town-wide turf feasibility study in the amount of \$35,000, in addition to interior repairs to the Fogg Library totaling \$400k were completed from this fund. The genesis of monies deposited to the stabilization fund represent mitigation monies received from LNR Corporation--the current balance in this account is \$1,353,880.

The Town Council approved the refinancing of bonds, originally financed in 2002 and 2005, obtaining a lower interest rate, resulting in substantial savings to the town.

The Town Council also approved the Mayor's supplemental budget appropriation (which was \$518,246 greater than the original annual appropriation). This increased funding was allocated to the school department.

The Council also approved funding for Community Preservation Committee proposals which resulted in the following: \$35,000 funding approval for a marketing study for the potential use for both the building and surrounding grounds of the Emery Estate, \$250,000 funding approval for phase 2 interior renovations to the historic Fogg Library, \$200,000 funding approval for Legion Field Memorial Wall-phase 3-concrete Repairs, and \$24,800 funding approval for a vegetation management action plan for Whitman's Pond.

The Town Council sent a series of letters to the MBTA in opposition to their proposed reduction in services – bus, commuter rail and ferry services.

Our town auditor, Richard Swanson, conducted internal audits of eight town departments during fiscal year 2012 and issued his reports to Council and the Mayor. He coordinates the independent audit of the town's books and records, in conjunction with Melanson, Heath and Company. Their audit report for fiscal year 2011 was presented to council for questions and acceptance. The auditor provides analysis and detailed questions on the Mayor's proposed FY13 budget, which are reviewed in depth during Budget/Management Committee meetings.

The Town Council continues in its efforts to act on behalf of its constituency by proactively reaching out to residents with neighborhood issues. This is accomplished by attending neighborhood meetings, town board meetings and responding to constituent inquiries via telephone, email and correspondence.

Council President Mathews extended his appreciation to his fellow Councilors, the employees of the Council and Clerk's Offices, Mayor Susan Kay, her administration, and the School Department and the School Committee for their ongoing efforts.

Most important he extended his 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 in our government.

He introduced Vice President Patrick O'Connor who will proceed with the agenda.

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MOTION made by Vice President O'Connor and seconded by Councilor Smart to open the public hearings on items **12 042** thru **12 058** and **12 062**.

President Mathews turned over the meeting to Mayor Kay and CFO McKinney to go over the FY13 budget and State of the Town.

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“This is the second budget in a row that reflects level service funding from the previous year. For two consecutive years we are showing small growth instead of reduction. Some highlights include the purchase of the King Oak Property or Emery Estate and Abigail Adams School Roof Restoration with a 54% match from the School Building Authority. Our bond rating improved to a solid AAA 3. The town is also renovating the Teen Center, the roof on the police station. A new E911 call center was installed at the police station. We created a special purpose mitigation fund at the request of Town Council to deposit mitigation payments from Tri-town this was to insure that monies received are spent on designated capital projects. Over \$1.7 million has been deposited to date.

We also began to address the need to fund OPEB, (Other Post Employment Benefits), which is the cost of health insurance for retired municipal employees. An allocation of \$600,000 was approved to start this funding. The town is working on a multifaceted approach to improve recreational expenses. An internal team made up of the DPW and schools are overseers for possible turf field in Town. Six proposals have been received and the Team will meet soon to evaluate. Legion Field is in the process of renovation. Tennis courts quotes came in much higher and the company recommended not going forward until warmer weather. Spending money on the courts without knowing the final disposition, this was a main concern of the Council. The courts are not in the best shape, but people are using them. This review process will be in the form of a public hearing, all residents are encouraged to attend.

FY13, which begins July 1st. This budget reflects an increase of \$4,846,098 or 3.7% from fiscal year 2012. As in the past more than half this budget has been applied to the school department. This budget projects no reliance on one time cash reserves. On the revenue side there are two key factors: first, state aid, increasing aids to schools by \$2 million more than we budgeted. Second, property taxes are the other driver, Prop 2 ½ allowable increases plus new growth.

Our health insurance while still very high, has only increased by \$200,000 slightly over one percent. Our state assessments have increased, our pension increase is up over \$300,000.

For the first time in years we have begun to invest in bonding capital projects. Our debt service costs have increased by \$650,000. The Total School Department Appropriation is recommended at \$56,790,810 an increase of 4.8% over FY2012 budget. It is a larger percentage increase as the entire town budget as a whole. A net transfer of \$1.35 million from free cash in an attempt to reduce that deficit. We cannot expect to eliminate such a large deficit in one year.

I will stay focused on the need to lower the carry over deficit as the funding becomes available. We have submitted measures for approval totaling \$58 million which includes budgets and free cash to Town Council for approval.

Other changes include accounting for decreases in Community Grant and Elder Affairs Grants. In addition, there is an increase in the rubbish collection cost due to fuel, but this increase has not been passed on to the residents.

Capital Improvement Plans were submitted to Council on March 1, outline priorities for the next five years that have been identified.

I am very pleased that we are able to take advantage of very low interest rates and borrowing to begin addressing our critical capital needs.

Our Service Debt for FY13 is \$9,750,450 which is an increase of \$659,914 from FY2012. As of June 30, 2011 our bond capacity is \$343,107,110.

We now have \$77,196,448 in debt obligations, I do not plan on requesting a supplemental appropriation until the Governor and Legislature actually enact a FY2013 budget and the DOR has actually announced its impact on Weymouth. Normally this process is completed in July. Free Cash for 2012 is estimated to be \$1 million. This calculation is based upon projected receipts from various tax title properties and unexpected line items contained in the FY12 budget.

DOR recommends communities know and understand the role that free cash plays in a strong credit rating. There are many communities in deficit of free cash. If receipts for Motor Vehicle Excise and Real Estate Tax fall below estimates for the fourth quarter, we could experience a revenue deficit during the current year and this would affect the free cash figures.

We have budgeted \$77,553 collection for Real Estate Taxes. We have collected \$75,665,736 million so far this year in Real Estate taxes. May and June figures will obviously increase those totals. I've included the Community Preservation Committee Budget with no specific project requests. The committee is currently reviewing those requests and will present at a later date. I have made no change requests.

Budget request was \$676,945 a decrease of \$9,505 for FY12 even though CPC revenues increase along with Property Taxes. The matching percentage from the state has steadily declined.

The Sewer Dept. budget will increase slightly due to a projected increase from MWRA. The Water Dept. will increase by 4.8% driven by debt costs due to the new water treatment plant at Great Pond.

I have submitted additional measures in this budget as follows:

- \$200,000 for our General Stabilization Fund
- \$150,000 Salary Reserves

\$552.68 for prior year's unpaid bills
Transfer any unexpected Health Insurance costs to the OPEB fund"

Mayor Kay turned it over to CFO McKinney for backup figures after thanking the Council for all they have done.

Presentation of the Budget – William McKinney, Chief Financial Officer

CFO McKinney presented the Budget for FY13 in a Power Point Presentation-attached.

Council President Mathews thanked the Mayor and CFO McKinney. Mayor Kay continued with her closing comments/speech and noted that she is committed to finding ways to at least work on a few fields every year. She reminded all that Weymouth's progress is very important to us all.

Council President Mathews announced that a sign in sheet was available outside the auditorium and said that those individuals will be recognized first to speak.

Bob Montgomery Thomas, 848 Washington Street

It's been rumored that South Shore Hospital might be acquired by Partners HealthCare. Partner's is a Boston-based group founded by Mass General and Brigham and Women's Hospitals. It is seeking a non-Boston presence and we need to ask why South Shore is in its merger crosshairs in addition to the Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women's Cancer Center located here.

Maybe it's because Boston tax-exempts agreed to a .25 PILOT rate while South Shore is paying a .1904 rate – a WHOPPING 32% differential. If South Shore were paying Boston's rate, Weymouth would probably benefit by about \$425,000 a year in extra revenue to help pay down the alleged \$3.1 million or \$1.9 million – or whatever today's latest number is – in the net school spending deficit and/or to have resources for other town needs.

Boston's Mayor commissioned a task force in January 2009 to determine what tax-exempts were paying for City services. The commission was asked to come up with a percentage that was fair and across the board for all parties.

Tax-exempts own about 50% of the City's property and the lower PILOT rates were putting great pressure on residential and commercial taxpayers.

Boston received \$9.9 million in the first-half FY12 PILOT payments, a 30% increase over what would have been paid under the prior program. The amount represents 92% of the \$10.8 million requested from the tax-exempts.

The institutions were asked to contribute approximately \$21.5 million in cash and \$22.2 million in community benefits that uniquely support Boston residents for FY12. In FY11, those same institutions paid only \$15.2 million in cash and \$2.3 million in community benefits. The difference is that Boston will receive \$26.2 million more this fiscal year.

The primary objectives of the Commission were to concentrate on setting standard level of contributions in programs and payments to be met by all major tax-exempt land owners in Boston. Of special interest as it pertains to Weymouth and SSH, one was to develop a better procedure for assessing community partnerships – mergers to be precise—made by tax-exempts.

The Commissioners met for 14 months and reviewed the former program as well as similar PILOT programs in cities and towns across America. They concluded that the basic principles of a fair and balanced program are transparency and consistency.

The Commission felt that all non-profit institutions should participate in the program. While focus was placed on the City's medical and educational institutions, it believed the City's museums, cultural facilities, and other significant non-profits shared similar interests. The Commission determined that an exception should be made for smaller nonprofits that might lack resources to fully cooperate; so they established a threshold of \$15 million in assessed value to meet that goal. The original Boston program considered what police, fire, snow removal, and other essential services represented as a percentage of the city's budget, which was about 25% of the budget for years; so the Commission determined that a universal .25 PILOT rate was clearly appropriate.

South Shore Hospital has been lauded as the town's largest employer, but unless that translates to a better PILOT rate or a local wage tax as other cities employ to help run those cities, what good does it do? He was not suggesting a wage tax; he is suggesting that SSH provide a better PILOT payment to help the town maintain the services the hospital receives.

Any merger should invalidate South Shore's absurd rate and the town should expect Boston's higher rate. The hospital, as we know it, will not exist after a merger, except in some camouflaged corporate papers as a "Partner" and the name on the building. If the merge talks bear fruit, the 1993 agreement between Weymouth and SSH won't be worth the paper it's printed on. Actually, that's the reality now.

We have an 80% graduation rate, 2% below average--we need to find what is going to drive these kids to what is going to make them achieve.

Rubbish costs are up averaging \$308 per household. If everyone learned how to recycle we will see those costs improve. If you want to put out 10 barrels then pay for 10 barrels. The town does not even have to handle these bags, they are bought at the local super market. We need to start taking care of this planet and we need to be a pyridine for Norfolk County and stop throwing money into the trash.

Council President Mathews responded as far as Partners Health Care the Council has questions and concerns, residents that work there, the quality of health care, the Council has requested on two occasions that South Shore Hospital appear for an update.

George Berg 74 Summer Street

Mr. Berg has been a resident of Weymouth all of his life. He agrees with the previous speaker that Mr. McKinney does a professional job. The net school spending is a calculation that everyone has to abide by. All of the residents that we are competing for are all in the same boat traveling down the same river. The economy has been the same over the past four years and he understands that the town has experienced financial difficulties. One of the things we have to keep in mind in that net school spending is that Weymouth resides in the lower tier of the entire state per student capita. That is a concern since neighboring towns are experiencing the same revenue issues.

He appreciates the Mayor trying to right the ship this year by level funding. We did not build this problem in one year. It took us four years to get the \$1.9 million deficit.

He was dismayed when he watched the presentation made to the Town Council last week from Tri-Town. We have all been waiting for this goose that laid the golden egg.

They clearly had a vision since that was the only way they would be able to plan for the future. Please keep their feet to the fire through the Town Council to their languaging-- this will be difficult for Fire and Police and we should be compensated for that. Flat rate is a concern as a regular permit holder his fee is based on a percentage of the construction value up to a certain amount. We are missing an opportunity with fees, since there is a massive revenue source that we should be able to tap into. When it comes to the service contracts with LNR we should be making sure they are paying the same rates as what we are. They have a plan and they have a sense and it does not seem to me that they are forthcoming in their presentation.

He was extremely happy with the spending in town, such as Fogg Library, schools, recreation. There is a flip side to the low tax rate, we are unable to pay for the items we want and need. Our trash rate is very equitable, he has parents in this town that are on a fixed income.

Mr. Berg has spoken with the Mayor and she has been very forthcoming, the School Committee has publicly come out recently and said they don't think there is enough money in the budget. The Council and the Mayor have made it very clear that they can only reduce the budget and they can not increase it. This still leaves a \$700,000 deficit between the budget that was submitted and what the School Committee originally stated they needed to run the program. Athletics has not been funded for the past 4 years. It went under the radar until it was brought to everyone's attention.

Council President Mathews thanked Mr. Berg for his comments.

Gus Perez 16 Hewitt Road

Primarily he was going to talk about two things schools and athletics at the high school. About three months ago, the Athletics Director held a state of the union meeting and delivered sobering news about the state of affairs with athletics. Private money, collected from

contributions, gate fees, and companies around the town, helped fund athletics. The past few years this was the safety net for the non-support of athletics. \$100,000 over four years has drawn down and by the end of this sport season the money will be completely absent. The exception of Athletics Directors, Secretary, and Trainer salaries and a \$100,000 cash infusion there was a \$400,000 operating cost. We began our conversations with all of you in advocacy that there was a need for athletics funding for \$100,000. It became apparent very quickly that that amount needed to be increased quickly. As school funding increases so does the athletics, funding which by the numbers has been significantly lacking over the last few years. We are down 150 positions from five years ago, carrying a \$1.9 million deficit for the last four years and now school performance is down. We can see what our failure rate is reported by two principals at the middle school. Every bench march for those two entities has missed the mark and we can see the failure in that lack of funding. It did not happen right away, but it is showing now. We do have to give credit to the Mayor and her office to forecast a measure to be able to meet the FY13 net school spending, however it is disappointing that the town couldn't take one additional step for the sake of ½ percent of a \$135 million budget to simply provide the full request of \$58 million dollars. This would allow them to meet the obligations of FY13 and start to make in-roads in the \$1.9 million deficit.

It is particularly disappointing that the reality of it after attending all of the meetings over the last few months, is that at least we had the money over the last 6 weeks for the end of the year- he suggested we should have waited for the budget to settle before making the decisions.

He agrees that the success or failure of a town with housing values, driven by schools, As Mr. Berg mentioned. Weymouth was in the bottom five when it came to spending on education. Every community that neighbors us over the last five years increased their commitments to education from 4.5% to 40% while we stayed flat and that put us behind. Whether we remain behind is going to depend where we land when doing the comparisons to our neighboring communities. We simply ask that the Mayor and the Town Council take a look at funding since we won't know the Chapter 70 or local aid money until over the summer.

The School Dept. had originally proposed a \$57.2 million budget request which was the number that was placed on the table and discussed. Through Town Council they encouraged advocacy, Councilor Lacey in particular asked that they come back with a realistic budget request. \$58 million was the new number and included rehiring middle school teachers and the full funding of athletics. We have received many statements of support from the Mayor, School Committee, and Town Councilors fully funding athletics. Despite those assurances when we saw the budget when it was filed on April 12th the \$58.1 less the \$1.35M one-time special free cash appropriation.

In that \$58.1 million there is \$400,000 to fully fund the athletics how can that be? The February 16th number that included \$100,000 and the \$58.8 million budget included the \$400,000 therefore the \$56 million dollar budget supports that. He recognized Chairman Guilfolye, and everyone on that committee for their openness. When we made the comments that the School Dept. should be able to fund athletics at \$400,000 that is half of the statement. We need the second half of the statement because the money exists. Where is the basis and on what data is this supported. On a go forward basis it needs to be demonstrated where in \$56

million exists \$400,000 to fund athletics. School committee went on the record to state that athletics is in jeopardy we have received no commitments whatsoever as to what if any level of funding is going to be made for HS athletics in FY13. We hope that the statements provided to us over the last three months get acted upon. Words and actions are two different things. To simply say the money should be there, that is simply not enough of a demonstration. We would like to collectively talk about coming up with delivery, a promise, to the High School. Right now the community is living in complete and total uncertainty. Incoming eighth graders have no idea what they will be receiving as far as athletics. JV sports have no idea if they are going offer JV sports next year. The first place to cut will be JV sports, next will be varsity sports. Please pay attention as he said earlier schools are one of the top drivers in real estate values. If you have a business in Weymouth you have a horse in the race when it comes to funding or not funding. Lets do the right thing we are at a crossroads. We have an opportunity in terms of schools and it should be schools, schools and schools to prioritize

Council President Mathews thanked Mr. Perez for his comments and invited CFO McKinney to respond.

CFO McKinney referred to the slide of expense changes FY11-13 Category. Based on the Governor's version of the budget that came out in January, in order to do that we asked all depts. to come up with what they would need to spend. They have received almost 60% the school dept asked to get up to 58.8 and we told them if we were lucky we would get to \$57 million. We got to almost \$56.8 and took \$350,000 from free cash to fund Special Ed out of District. Meeting with the fire dept we cut their request, we cut the Police Dept. request -- Weymouth is one town and we are all in this together. We have to do what is in the best interest of the entire Town. When we spend money on capital projects, roof repairs, etc. that does not get included with net school spending.

The fact that for two years in a row we have not had to layoff staff sends a positive statement and an additional 60% is going to the school dept. That would be great to come up with \$700,000 a lot of that debt is School Dept. debt of state assessments, Health Insurance and Pension costs. The slide was changed to Expense change from FY12 and he reminded us what those numbers are and what would go into the school dept. In order to be responsible we have to present a balanced budget. We are not here to pit the schools against the town we are all one town.

Council President Mathews thanked CFO McKinney.

Mr. Perez states that he acknowledges the hard work. In terms of percentage numbers that is not only for Weymouth, that is all over the state. One of the reasons that the School Dept. had a 4.8% increase, every department in town received an increase, the school is 4.8% and not astronomically higher than other departments. Schools are naturally higher because we have been short funded over the last four years. Let's keep things in perspective. Bottom line is a free and public education is the only service mandated by Mass. General Laws. We should not be cutting Police or Fire Dept., cuts are a reality. Schools are the top driver and all we are saying is for the sake of half a percentage point we could have done it for FY13. The \$600,000

allocated to the OPEB requirement was not a requirement or a mandate. Sidewalk repairs for \$150,000 were also not a priority.

CFO McKinney states the \$600,000 is for Health Care for Retirees into OPEB and is because our net deficit is over \$30 million, our liability is \$236 million dollars. It would affect our bond rating we are at AAA 3 which is better than some of our neighbors. Even if we allocated \$600,000 to hire more teachers at the middle school that money may not be available the next year.

Christen Reardon 45 Southern Ave

She is a senior this year with eight days remaining and was in her uniform because she was going to talk about athletics. A promise was made to her a couple of months ago that her friends would be on JV teams, how can you take this opportunity away from these kids? 900 kids are trying to be part of Weymouth and be a part of sports. They deserve every chance she had. In the four years that she has been here, athletics has not been funded. Gus Perez has been wonderful. Please listen to us.

Sean Vitello 100 Street

Back in 1979 he was a senior in Weymouth South High School and his coach came to them and said they had a problem in Weymouth and they were in danger of losing their track and field program. The coach had boxes of donated candy bars and asked that they sell them in order to fund the athletic program and help out.

Mr. Vitello graduated in 1980 and this has been going on since he was in high school 32 years ago. He later went on to be a scholarship student and go on to college. The same for his brother and it was athletics that provided that money. This is history repeating itself. He has been coming to these meetings and no one wants to mention that taxes need to increase. He owns a business and employed eight people and now only employs five. Does anyone know the exact number for athletics because his son is in eighth grade and on his way to High School and he would like to know.

Council President Mathews responded that the School Committee has begun deliberations and no decisions have been made yet regarding the budget.

Council President Mathews stated that this concludes the list of speakers that have signed up. He asked that anyone interested in speaking that was not on the list and has not spoken yet to raise their hands. Once they come to the microphone and asked that they identify themselves by name and address for the recording secretary.

Kathleen Curran 26 Babcock Ave

As far as Chapter 70 money, the Mayor has stated she will give the town the Chapter 70 money. She questioned the highly paid dean positions and she wants to make sure every penny is spent wisely.

The high school has lost nine and a half teachers and put in a request for one business teacher. Does the new plan for middle schools have to have two principals, why not one principal for

both campuses. She suggested that central offices needs to reorganize and impressed the need to follow closely the use of gift accounts, revolving accounts and grants. With regards to the athletic money, the gift money was a lot so why was there \$800,000 in that gift account? Her new tag line is we are all in this together, the schools are a driver. Families shop schools, but they don't shop Police and Fire they just expect them to be there. She believes our students are getting a good education.

Julie Long 24 Jacqueline Road

Ms. Long has resided in Weymouth for 43 years, they have relied a lot on sports for their kids. She is a nurse and can not tell us how many teens are on heroin or pregnant. She read a letter authored by Kevin Wittermore regarding the benefits of youth football.

She knows that the Council has a difficult task as related to allocating funding. She also questioned whether or not Tri-Town/LNR ever confirmed if they owed water and sewer hook ups?

Council President Mathews responded that Weymouth has two representatives, Abington has one representative and Rockland has two—this figure is approximately a \$300-400k hook up fee.

Ms. Long asked why the deal was made that Weymouth was the only town to take children into the school system if they resided in Southfield? Why aren't the other towns involved?

Council President Mathews stated the legislation, written at the state level, states that all school age children residing at that development would go to Weymouth Public Schools.

She asked how are we to accommodate this situation.

Council President Mathews responded that he did not have an answer at this time and that he has requested that our representatives appear before the School Committee.

Julie Long also expressed her concern that there are no contracts to be reimbursed for Police and Fire.

Mayor Kay responded by saying the Town is invoicing \$11,392 for fire and \$14,343 for police responses which covers January, February and March—noting that prior to that we are not allowed to charge. We will invoice for the fourth and final quarter of this year, monies are deposited to the general fund

Julie Long commented that she has seven family members coming up and we really want to see them play sports.

Council President Mathews thanked Ms. Long for her comments.

Jackie Brady 23 Victoria Ave.

In response to Mr. Thomas the graduation success rate is 80% and how are we going to get that number higher? If sports is taken away what is that number going to be next year? There has to be some kids out of that 900 that are still motivated. The middle schools are in a tough situation-- what are those 8th graders going to do? Sports keep them motivated and interested and with the right group of kids. Brockton was here in Weymouth playing soccer and a Brockton mom made a comment that we should be embarrassed for the shape our fields are in.

Council President Mathews thanked Ms. Brady for her comments.

Doug Folsom 313 Central St.

He stated that without the sports these kids don't have a chance. How many passing grades does a kid have to have in order to stay on the team. He would quit if he did not have the sports. These kids won't stay in school if they don't have sports.

He has heard the coaches make too much, they are there all afternoon and into the night. At the basketball side they are there every night. Their salary is very small compared to the hours they put in. He does not want to see the \$700,000 take the \$400,000 out and we have to make up \$300,000.

As long as there is another funding source it is legal to take the funding from another source. These kids go to sporting events on buses and they are sitting on the floors.

His daughter is a school teacher now, and hopefully comes to Weymouth. He has a son in Weymouth Schools who needs sports to keep him focused. The coach needs the money to do his job. He is involved in 3 sports and the coaches are going from one game to another. He sees him at them all and he has small children. We tell our kids when they do good, but we always tell them to do better, that is what he is going to tell you guys tonight you all do good but you can do better. We need the sports, find a way to fund it together with the boosters. They have to stay focused work hard and stay out of trouble. If they don't have that they are going to follow the wrong side of the line.

Jack Connolly 56 Colisante Rd.

He thanked Gus Perez for his efforts and his professionalism. He has had 5 of his children graduate from Weymouth and has two more up and coming. He knows a lot of kids and could fill a list with names of accomplished students—he asked that everyone show they care and fund the \$400,000.

Council President Mathews thanked Jack for his comments.

Mr. Robert Montgomery Thomas

The town puts in \$28 and the state puts in the balance to make the \$57 million. In chapter 70 it provides for 2.1 percent of the budget for SPED. We have a 17% SPED population. We also have 50 or so homeless students, let's do the math x 50 students is \$600,000. That is how much is spent on educating people that do not live here. He petitioned to waive the net school spending. Let's give them the money and let's plug the holes and figure out where this

money is going to educate non- resident students. Part of his petition process is he wanted the Senate and the House to review the 1993 Chapter 70 Bill, it is outdated.

The \$600,000 here and the additional \$400,000 that South Shore Hospital should be willing to invest in this community. Maybe we could start leveling out the cost of medicine and health care. It's an unfunded liability. We need to tell the state that you are making us educate 50 students at our cost. These are the places that your dollars are going. Almost the entire town budget of which \$27 million we give to the schools.

You want us to do these things then you need to pay the piper. You can not just mandate these things and not pony up.

Gus Perez returned

He asked that we clarify some numbers on the whole net school spending piece, these are only recommendations not regulations on free cash. They will say we recommend that you don't use free cash for recurring items, but on the other hand the town has gone and tried to get waived and what was the response? It was you have too much free cash. \$400,000 dollars is the operating expenses and what is required is \$225,000 is Coaches stipends it is 50% of the overall \$400,000 program. Payroll expenses typically make up large percentages of the overhead. Coaches salaries and stipends that are part of the CBA with WTA we felt it was inappropriate and improper for fans to pay that. With respect to the Coach some of the top expenses are rental of rinks, transportation, officials, all of those others kinds of things make up the additional.

We heard some conversation that we are looking at coach salaries and stipends. We are second from the bottom, the only town around that pays their coaches less is Walpole. Other communities similar to us are Newton North \$393,031 Framingham \$357,693 Braintree \$388,500 Milton \$283,790 Brookline \$309 Needham \$312,000. Our coaches deliver thousands of hours for very short money. These towns that he mentioned also have assistants which Weymouth does not have. When it comes to funding Coaches salaries it is not the place for savings.

Mayor Kay responded that we all make choices when we budget. The priority for the town through my office is to make net school spending and we did. It was a choice, we went back to DPW and said no you can't buy that vehicle. The Library was told no to new books. It was the right thing to do. The school committee also has choices and they have choices to fund and it will be the school committee to choose to do this. I thought it was appalling that Athletics had not been funded for four years. I am going on record tonight to say, yes we should fund the \$400,00 and as a School Committee member I encourage my other fellow members to do the same.

Council President Mathews thanks the Mayor for her comments.

Councilor Harrington made a motion to close the public hearing-received no second.

Motion withdrawn by Councilor Harrington

Michael Riley 279 Central Street

Over the last four years where they weren't paying anything to student athletics the parents paid 1.6m dollars.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:05 p.m. there being no further business, a **MOTION** was made by Councilor O'Connor and seconded by Michael Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Flynn Dickinson

Approved by Council President Mathews.