

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Abigail Adams Auditorium**  
**May 16, 2011 - Monday**

Present: Arthur Mathews, President  
Patrick O'Connor, Vice President  
Robert Conlon  
Kenneth DiFazio  
Ed Harrington  
Thomas J. Lacey  
Brian McDonald  
Victor Pap, III  
Michael Smart  
Kevin Whitaker

Not Present: Michael Molisse

Also Present: Franklin Fryer, Town Clerk  
Susan M. Kay, Mayor  
George Lane, Town Solicitor  
William McKinney, Chief Financial Officer  
Michael Gallagher, Director of Administrative & Community Svcs.  
Weymouth School Committee Members  
Weymouth School Administration

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

President Mathews called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Following the Pledge of Allegiance Town Clerk Franklin Fryer called the roll; Councilor Molisse was absent due to a family commitment.

**Presentation of Scholarship Awards**

Lois Desmond, Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee reviewed the committee's work. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> year presenting awards, and although the current economic climate paid a toll on receipts, \$32,400 was awarded to the 34 recipients chosen from 142 completed applications. Ms. Desmond thanked the Scholarship Committee which reviewed and selected the recipients, the donors and the sponsors. She also noted the retirement this year of long time committee member Barbara DeCosta, who was acknowledged with an ovation for her twenty years of service.

Along with Mayor Susan Kay and Town Council President Arthur Mathews, Ms. Desmond presented scholarship awards to the following town residents: Anastasia E. Arena, Jessica M. Balzano, Nicholas C. Barker, Kelsey M. Brennan, Danielle M. Conneely, Jacquelyn R. Davis, Virginia A. Donnelly, Ashley E. Elliott, Erica M. Gagnon, Rodolfo M. Galinatti, Jessica E. Hard, Meaghan F. Harrington, Christine M. Higgins,

Julie M. Kelly, Kaitlyn E. Kelly, Matthew J. Landers, Shannon M. Manning, Jessica C. McLeod, Meghan E. Murphy, Minh-Tam L. Nguyen, Kaitlynn J. O’Leary, Alexander Papadopoulos, Kaitlyn T. Parsley, Elizabeth L. Ruscio, Adam W. Smith, Arianna R. Spader, Evan A. Spetrini, Benjamin J. Stuart, Zachary M. Stuart, Robert A. Tocchio, Jennifer M. Walker, Brandon A. Wencek, Stephanie C. White, and Christopher M. Whitten.

**Overview of Legislative Activities for Fiscal Year 2010**

President Mathews read the following prepared statement:

*“Good evening and thank you for attending our Annual Town Meeting. I would like to introduce the Weymouth Town Councilors. I would call upon Sean Guilfoyle, Chair of the School Committee, to introduce members of his committee. I acknowledge the department heads and school administrators who have joined us this evening.*

*Pursuant to Section 6-6 of the Town Charter, the Town Council President is required to deliver an update on the legislative activities of the Council for fiscal 2011 which began on July 1, 2010.*

*The Town Council has held a total of 48 meetings to date for fiscal year 2011. This includes regularly scheduled Town Council Meetings and numerous meetings of the ten 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 most importantly, approving the operating budget for the town as submitted by the Mayor. The Council, while deliberating over the budget, as dictated by the charter, cannot add to, but can only reduce the budget.*

*Despite the challenges of funding received from the state, in addition to the current state of the economy, I am proud to report that the town managed to make measurable improvements.*

*Highlights of these improvements for the fiscal year include:*

- *Securing of a PWED Grant (Public Works Economic Development Grant) to aid in the restoration of Weymouth Landing. The Town Council also approved the creation of a Village Center Overlay Zoning District for Weymouth Landing.*
- *The Council approved funding for Community Preservation proposals, which resulted in the following:*
  - *Approval was given for funding towards the preservation of the historical Abigail Adams House*
  - *Funding was approved for preservation of the gate, historical wall and fence at Legion Field. In addition to those items, the Town Council also approved a free cash appropriation for the demolition of the stands at Legion Field.*

- *The Council approved funding for extensive improvements to the town's water main infrastructure for various locations in town.*
- *Funding was approved for the replacement of two plow trucks and a vector truck for the Department of Public Works.*
- *The Council approved funding to support a request from the Harbormaster's boat for a necessary engine overhaul.*
- *Funding was granted in order to pay off two fire department truck leases in addition to the purchase of seven new police cruisers, all of which ensure the safety of both our residents and town staff.*
- *The Town Council approved the hiring of four new town directors: Rob McLean (Library), Dan McCormack (Public Health), Jeff Bina (DPW) and William McKinney (Chief Financial Officer). Additionally, several town committee appointments were approved.*
- *In January of this year, resultant from many committee meetings which included input from the public, the Council unanimously approved a resolution in support of a bascule bridge design for the Fore River Bridge replacement project. This resolution was forwarded to the United States Coast Guard, Department of Transportation and numerous members of our delegation.*
- *As a Council, we approved an extension to an ordinance regarding the town's tax amnesty program. This allows residents a reduction in the interest owned on tax title properties.*
- *The Council initiated, and subsequently approved an amendment to the Code of Ordinances (Section 8-400 Streets and Roads) which places restrictions on public utility companies and private contractors who perform trench work to the town roads. These restrictions are in place to ensure that the roadways will be returned to the condition they were in prior to excavation.*

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

*I would like to thank my fellow Councilors, the employees of the Council and Clerk's Offices, Mayor Susan Kay, her administration and the School Department for all of their efforts.*

*Most importantly, I would like to extend my appreciation to the residents of the town of Weymouth, who by their valuable input at meetings, and raising important issues, have illustrated the true definition of democracy in our government.*

*Thank you for your attention this evening."*

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

**Public Hearings**

**11 025-Free Cash Appropriation –53<sup>rd</sup> Payroll Week**

**11 026-Swerve Enterprise Fund Annual Appropriation**

**11 027-Water Enterprise Fund Annual Appropriation**

**11 028- Unpaid Bills**

**11 029-Reappropriation for Snow Removal**

**11 030-Free Cash-Additional FY2011 Snow Removal**

**11 032-Free Cash-Fire Department Turnout Gear**

**11 033-Sewer Enterprise Fund Annual Appropriation**

**11 034-Sewer Retained Earnings-Wharf Street Pump Station**

**11 035-Sewer Retained Earnings-Sewer Department Vehicle**

**11 036-Water Enterprise Fund Annual Appropriation**

**11 037-Water Retained Earnings-Water Department Equipment**

**11 038-Water Retained Earnings-Water Department Vehicle**

**11 039-Community Preservation Committee Annual Appropriation**

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to OPEN the Public Hearing on items **11 025** through **11 030**, inclusive, and **11 032** through **11 039**, inclusive, and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**Fiscal Year 2012 Budget**

Mayor Kay read the following "State of the Town" message:

*"I hereby submit my proposed operating budget for Fiscal Year 2012 to the Town Council as required by the Town's Charter.*

*"I am pleased to report that this budget reflects level service funding from FY11. For the first time in three years, we are able to show small growth as opposed to cutting and slashing.*

*“As you know, the past several years have been very difficult for all of us. We have all had to do more with less. While this budget does not get us back to where we need to be, it does stop the declines, service cuts, and layoffs that we have had in the past. I want to thank the residents of this great town for their patience and understanding and I also want to thank the town employees for stepping up and working hard to maintain the high standards that the taxpayers deserve and have come to expect. I plan to reopen Town Hall on Wednesdays as soon as possible.*

*“The Fiscal Year 2012 budget totals \$130,273,073. This budget is an increase of \$4,113,976, or 3.3% from Fiscal Year 2011 but only an increase of 3.1% over the Fiscal Year 2008 budget. More than half of this budget’s increase is applied to the School Department budget to meet the ‘level service amount’ of \$54,205,002. The FY2012 operating budget for the general fund projects no reliance on one time cash reserves. This has been recommended by the Department of Revenue.*

*“On the revenue side, there are two key factors driving the increase. The first is net state aid. The Governor has proposed that this item will increase by \$2.36 million over FY11. This is comprised of an increase in net school aid of \$3.06 million and a decrease in general government aid of \$700,000. The other driver of course is property taxes. Proposition 2 ½ allowable increase plus new growth will total \$2.4 million.*

*“While it would be great for the Town if we were to receive the full amount of the Governor’s proposed increase, we cannot realistically budget for that full amount. Other revenue sources are decreasing. That is why we are projecting a net revenue increase of \$4,113,976.*

*“On the expense side, fixed costs continue to dominate the budget. Our health insurance costs have increased by over \$900,000, a 5% increase, which would have been much higher if we had not joined the Group Insurance Commission in FY10.*

*“The total school department appropriation is recommended at \$54,205,002 which is an increase of 5.2% over FY11. This amount was requested at their public hearing held on February 17, 2011. The School Committee actually voted a higher amount of \$55,599,430 on March 10, 2011. This was due to the Governor’s budget recommending an additional \$3 million in Chapter 70 aid. A net school spending deficit will remain, which we will reduce with the \$550,000 that has already been appropriated. An additional amount to be determined at a later date will be recommended to Council for action. We cannot expect to eliminate such a large deficit in one year. I will stay focused on the need to lower it as additional funding becomes available.*

*“Other changes in this budget include salary increases for several unions that were finally ratified this year after negotiating for over three years, and an increase in the rubbish collection costs due to increases in fuel (the increase has not been passed on to the fee that residents pay).*

*“Funding for ‘phased out’ positions in the DPW Department will allow the hiring of two additional laborers. We are anticipating reductions in the funding of some of our grants and have shifted some of those costs to this budget. Exempt employees have not received a salary increase since July 1, 2006. These individuals have taken on additional work due to lower staffing necessities through unfilled vacancies over the past three years. I am proposing a 4% increase for these employees. This works out to an average of less than 1% per year for the five years. Elected officials, appointed boards and committees are not included in this increase.*

*“I am recommending the removal of a \$100,000 amount meant to fund the lease payment of a fire engine. One of the engines has been paid off so the budgeted amount would have decreased from \$258,000 in FY11 to \$100,000 in FY12. This lease prepayment will allow for the hiring of an additional fire fighter.*

*“The Capital Improvement Plan submitted to Council on March 1, 2011 demonstrates all we have accomplished and identifies priorities for the next five years. Investing in our capital needs is critical for the long term health of our community. Under the current circumstances, there will be no requests for new capital projects despite several needs. However, we have been able to fund a number of these requests from free cash. These measures have been submitted to the Town Council and noted where they were included in the Capital Plan. Our debt service for FY12 is \$9,907,536 which is a decrease of \$362,726 from FY11. Our bonding capacity is \$369,370,490 and we have \$100,432,399 in debt obligations.*

*“I do not plan on requesting a supplemental appropriation until the Legislature and the Governor enact a FY2012 budget and the Department of Revenue has announced the impact of that budget on Weymouth. Normally, this process is completed in July.*

*“Free cash for FY2012 is estimated to be \$1,000,000. This calculation is based upon projected receipts from various tax title properties and unexpended line items contained within the FY2011 budget. This number is dependent upon our collection rate for FY11. If receipts for motor vehicle excise and real estate taxes fall below those levels in the fourth quarter, we could experience a revenue deficit during Fiscal year 2011, our current fiscal year. I will report to you the collection rate at our annual town meeting, which is usually two weeks following the due date of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter real estate tax.*

*“I have included the Community Preservation Committee budget with no specific project requests. The committee is currently reviewing requests and will be presented at a later date. I have made no changes from what was presented to me by the Committee. The budget has been requested at \$686,450, a decrease of \$33,299 from FY2011.*

*“The Sewer Department budget will increase slightly due to a projected increase by MWRA. Like the Sewer Department, the Water Department budget will increase by 4.2% driven by debt cost associated with the new water treatment plant.*

*“I have submitted several additional measures in this budget booklet for deliberation*

*before Council. They consist of: \$245,000 for police cruisers, \$80,000 for fire department turnout gear, \$400,000 for the snow and ice deficit, and \$3,839.64 for prior year unpaid bills. I look forward to discussions and deliberations on the budget.*

**Presentation of the Budget- William McKinney, Chief Financial Officer**

Mr. McKinney presented the FY12 Budget in a power point presentation:

[http://www.weymouth.ma.us/CMS200Sample/uploadedfiles/2011Budget\\_PP.pdf](http://www.weymouth.ma.us/CMS200Sample/uploadedfiles/2011Budget_PP.pdf)

Mayor Kay then gave her closing remarks. She noted that although this has been a most challenging year, many things have been accomplished, including the purchase of a fire engine, work at Fogg Library, Legion Field and the Herring Run, streetscape projects, the upkeep of the town's parks, and some capital needs including the Water Treatment Plant, the purchase of firefighter turnout gear and police department cruisers.

President Mathews announced that this meeting would be a taped to be broadcast at a later time. He outlined the ground rules for the public hearing.

The following residents signed up before the meeting to speak:

**Robert Montgomery Thomas, 848 Washington Street** (*copy of remarks attached*).

During his remarks, Councilor Lacey interjected a point of order requesting Mr. Montgomery Thomas keep his remarks relevant to the Public Hearing.

**Tom Murphy, 462 East St.**, and secretary of Firefighter Local 1616 addressed his comments to the Mayor and Town Council regarding use of the Safer Grant to rehire five members of the department, his concerns for future of staffing levels and the effect on the ability to provide and receive mutual aid and maintain the RIC team.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to close the Public Hearing on items 11 020 through 11 030, inclusive, and 11 032 through 11 039, inclusive, was seconded by Councilor Smart. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

