

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Town Hall Council Chambers
October 15, 2012, Monday**

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

Also Present: CFO William McKinney
George Lane, Town Solicitor
Kathy Deree, Town Clerk
James Clarke, Director of Planning & Community
Development

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

President Mathews called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Town Clerk Kathy Deree called the roll with all members present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor DiFazio announced the Weymouth Food Pantry's 17th annual "Stock Our Shelves" walk will begin at 10AM on Saturday, October 20, 2012.

He also announced the East Weymouth Neighborhood Association will sponsor a discussion with Police Chief Grimes at the Abigail Adams auditorium on Tuesday, October 30, 2012.

Councilor Molisse announced that Weymouth Elder Services will hold its 5th annual walk on October 17, 2012. Participants can check in at the Summer Street entrance of Pond Meadow Park.

Councilor Smart announced MassDOT will hold a public meeting on October 17, 2012 at the WHS Humanities Center at 7 PM on the proposed Route 18 widening plan. The proposed plan will be presented and concerns can be addressed.

Councilor Hackett announced the town will hold a flu clinic on October 20, 2012 from 9 AM to 1:30 PM. Shots are available to residents over the age of 5 and proof of residency is required.

Councilor Conlon announced the Mayor has set trick-or-treating hours on Halloween from 4:30-7:00 PM.

Councilor Burke announced a Candidates Night sponsored by the North Weymouth Civic Association, which will be held on October 24, 2012 at 7 PM at the McCulloch Building.

He also announced the Health Department is hosting a Mass in Motion food day event on October 24, 2012. Participating in the pilot are restaurants including Kelly's Landing, Dawn to Dusk, and includes a variety of sponsors- Shaw's Supermarket, South Shore Hospital, and WETC. Further information is available at the Healthy Wey website.

Councilor Mathews announced that a public hearing will be held on October 24, 2012 in Council Chambers on the proposed project at Middle/Libby Industrial/Tara Dr. to review the land configurations and HP improvements.

MINUTES

Ordinance Committee Meeting minutes September 18, 2012

A MOTION was made by Vice President O'Connor to approve the minutes from the Ordinance Committee Meeting of September 18, 2012 and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Budget/Management Committee Meeting minutes September 18, 2012

A MOTION was made by Vice President O'Connor to approve the minutes from the Budget/Management Committee Meeting of September 18, 2012 and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Economic Development Committee Meeting of October 1, 2012

A MOTION was made by Vice President O'Connor to approve the minutes from the Economic Development Committee Meeting of October 1, 2012 and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Ordinance Committee Meeting of October 1, 2012

A MOTION was made by Vice President O'Connor to approve the minutes from the Ordinance Committee Meeting of October 1, 2012 and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

12 110-General Government Supplemental Fiscal Year 2013 Appropriation

A motion was made by Vice President O'Connor to OPEN the public hearing on item 12 110-general government supplemental fiscal year 2013 appropriation and was seconded by Councilor Smart. This was published on October 12, 2012. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Mayor Kay and CFO McKinney presented the measure, in request that the town of Weymouth raise and appropriate the sum of \$135,652,536 which is \$533,265 greater than the amount of the annual appropriation of \$135,119,271 voted by Council on June 18, 2012 in measure 12-042. This measure will provide for all the expenses for the maintenance and operation of the town's several departments and activities for fiscal year 2013 by re-appropriating the following line items in the following amounts:

REVENUE					
Line item	Description	Original Appropriation	New Appropriation	Variance	
11210430.425209	Base Revenue	\$0	\$100,000	\$ 100,000	
11450410.460019	Local Aid/Lottery	\$6,842,039	\$7,375,304	\$ 533,265	
11450410.482010	Interest Income	\$160,000	\$110,000	\$ (50,000)	
13600440.441014	Building Permits	\$500,000	\$450,000	\$ (50,000)	
			Total	\$ 533,265	
EXPENSES					
Category	Line item	Description	Original Appropriation	Requested Amount	Increase
School Dept			\$ 56,790,809.19	\$ 56,972,809.19	\$187,000
Library	16993825.541110	Book/Mater	\$ 55,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 40,000
	16993815.530209	Computer	\$ 15,000	\$ 27,265	\$ 12,265
Town Council	11114110.512100	Rec Secrty	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$ 2,000
Town Clerk	11614117.510001	Salaries	\$165,072.17	\$171,072.17	\$ 6,000
	11614417.530212	Advertise	\$ 3,500	\$ 5,500	\$ 2,000
Public Works	14104190.510001	Salaries	\$ 448,999.84	\$ 518,999.84	\$ 70,000
Planning	11754160.510001	Salaries	\$ 308,589.42	\$ 333,589.42	\$ 25,000
Veterans	16997995.519900	Benefits	\$ 420,000	\$ 445,000	\$ 25,000
Pension/Bene	11945555.517101	Cont/Retire	\$ 8,454,773	\$ 8,468,773	\$ 14,000
	11945840.517202	Health Ins	\$ 19,000,000	\$ 19,150,000	\$150,000
				Total	\$ 533,265

Furthermore, that the sum of \$50,000 is appropriated from the Waterways Fund to meet some of the costs of the Harbormaster's Program, a restatement of measure 12-042.

Mayor Kay stated that the supplemental budget amount was the same that the state held back. While some of the items are recurring, she considers it budgetary and is confident it will be able to continue into the next fiscal year.

Councilor DiFazio reported that the matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee, which met earlier tonight to deliberate. The measure was reviewed and the committee voted unanimously to forward to the full town Council with a recommendation for favorable action. Council President Mathews added that each line of the measure was reviewed in depth with the appropriate department head.

Gus Perez, representing the Weymouth Athletic Boosters (WABA) had laryngitis and asked the following prepared statement be read (read by Councilor Burke):

“Thank you Mr. President and members of the council. I’ve asked that this statement be read on my behalf, since my obviously overzealous participation at another WABA fundraising event as a character in a haunted house last night, along with forty other supporters of Wildcat Athletics caused me to lose my voice.

As you may recall, we began an advocacy campaign about ten months ago that initially began to lobby on behalf of Weymouth High School Athletics funding, WABA, the Weymouth Athletics Boosters Association, was formed as a result. However, it quickly became apparent that the issues were bigger and more global than just sports funding, and our advocacy evolved to address the larger issues associated with Weymouth’s historical lack of adequate financial support for the seven thousand children of the school district as required by Education Reform and communicated by the state in what I am sure everyone now better understands. Of course I am referring to net school spending.

We have publically acknowledged and thanked the Mayor, the members of this Council, the School Committee, and Weymouth Public Schools Administrators for your individual and collective efforts and cooperation that resulted in FY13 net school spending requirements being met for the first time in five years. From the athletics perspective, however, we need to clearly understand that the three hundred thousand financial appropriation made by the School Committee comes from projected savings and was in no way directly funded by any line in the FY13 budget. It is also not guaranteed, since the funding, which by the way only meets seventy-five percent of the annual four hundred thousand dollar operating costs, but School Committee and school administrators have publicly promised to ensure that the three hundred thousand dollars will be made available to Weymouth High School Athletics, “absent some unforeseen catastrophe.”

While we can celebrate and acknowledge the positive outcomes with respect to school funding and athletics funding during FY13, we must not lose sight of a few things:

- *That meeting the net school spending requirements represents but the bare MINIMUM that we should be spending to ensure the success of the seven thousand school kids of Weymouth*
- *That the town still owes \$1.9 million in accumulated net school spending deficit*
- *That the data is now beginning to show the negative outcomes of the lack of financial support of our schools over the last five years. The most recent MCAS results published by the Massachusetts Department of Education clearly show the decline in Weymouth student performance in both English and Math when measured against the required state benchmarks, but also when compared to other towns in the state. Two-thirds of our seventh graders fall in the “needs improvement” or “failure” category in Math in last spring’s MCAS, for example.*
- *That the district remains about 150 or so net teaching positions down from five years ago.*

- *That our class sizes average in the high twenties, and in some cases, even the low thirties.*
- *That we are now considered what the Department of Education labels as a “level 3 district,” on a scale where commendation schools are the best; requiring no state involvement, to a Level 5 being the worst; requiring extremely high state oversight and involvement. Weymouth now requires high state involvement.*

Clearly we need to maintain our focus on the issues involving our schools which ultimately all tie into continuing proper funding You have before you a measure which looks to provide an additional \$187,000 in school funding which comes from this year’s unrestricted state local aid. We urge you to approve the measure since the money will only ensure that the FY13 net school spending requirement is met, which let’s not forget represents the minimum required by state law.

Thank you Mr. President.”

A motion was made by Vice President O’Connor to CLOSE the public hearing on item 12 110-general government supplemental fiscal year 2013 appropriation and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

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

12 112-Police Department Transfer Request

CFO McKinney requested on behalf of the Mayor that the town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$20,000 from line item 13104120-510001 (Uniform Program-Salaries) to line item 13104320-519300 (Uniform Patrol-Clothing). CFO McKinney reviewed the request and the back- up provided by Capt. Joseph Comperchio supporting the request.

A motion was made by Vice President O’Connor to refer item 12 112 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

12 113-Community Preservation Committee- Legion Field Memorial Wall Iron Work

CFO McKinney requested on behalf of the Mayor that the town of Weymouth raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,789.30 from the Community Preservation-unrestricted fund for the purpose of funding the cost associated with retainage payment for DeAngelis Iron Work on Legion Memorial Wall. The balance in the unrestricted fund at the time of this measure is \$256,435.00. The measure requires legal notice and a public hearing.

A motion was made by Vice President O’Connor to refer item 12 113 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Budget/Management Committee-Chairman Kenneth DiFazio

12 110-General Government Supplemental Fiscal Year 2013 Appropriation

Councilor DiFazio reported that this matter was referred to the committee on October 1, 2012. The committee met and deliberated on October 15, 2012. A public hearing was held on October 15, 2012.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, a motion was made by Councilor DiFazio that the town of Weymouth raise and appropriate the sum of \$135,652,536 which is \$533,265 greater than the amount of the annual appropriation of \$135,119,271 voted by Council on June 18, 2012 in measure 12-042. This measure will provide for all the expenses for the maintenance and operation of the town's several departments and activities for fiscal year 2013 by re-appropriating the following line items in the following manner:

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Furthermore, that the sum of \$50,000 is appropriated from the Waterways Fund to meet some of the costs of the Harbormaster's Program, a restatement of measure 12-042. The motion was seconded by Vice President O'Connor and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

NEW BUSINESS

**South Shore Tri-Town Development Corporation's Annual Budget Process-
Councilor Kenneth DiFazio**

Councilor DiFazio noted that on March 22, 2012, the Budget/Management Committee held a meeting with James Wilson of SSTTDC regarding the ongoing budget process which included a discussion and several specific questions for defining excess revenue. Councilor DiFazio observed Rockland's Selectman's meeting of October 1, 2013, and particularly the presentation by Rockland's Town Auditor Eric A. Hart. His presentation and information differed from the information that Mr. Wilson provided to the Budget/Management Committee. He would like to invite Mr. Hart to come before the committee to review his basis for determining the definition of excess revenue.

A MOTION was made by Councilor DiFazio to refer this item to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Vice President O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

The next Town Council Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday November 13, 2012, due to the election and Veterans' Day. At 7:58 PM; there being no further business, a MOTION was made by Vice President O'Connor to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Council President Arthur Mathews