

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
January 23, 2006 - Monday

Present: Kenneth DiFazio, Chairperson
 Susan Kay
 Paul J. Leary
 Patrick O'Connor

Not Present: Michael Molisse

Also Present: James Wilson, Chief Financial Officer
 Jane Hackett, Chief of Staff
 Franklin Fryer, Town Clerk
 Robert Leary, Chief, Weymouth Fire Department
 Councilor Michael Smart

Recording Secretary: Mary Briggs

Chairman Kenneth DiFazio called the Budget/Management Committee meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Jane Hackett and James Wilson came before the Committee. Ms Hackett reported that based on findings from the Health Study, the 13-member Health Study Advisory Committee is being re-established, and recommendations for the following appointments are required to be submitted to Town Council (Two appointments were withdrawn through the Town Clerk's office):

06 002 Appointment of Judith McTiernan to the Health Study Advisory Committee

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary second by Councilor O'Connor, to bring to full council with favorable recommendation. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

06 003 Appointment of Karen Acerra to the Health Study Advisory Committee

A MOTION was made by Councilor Kay, second by Councilor Leary, to bring to full council with favorable recommendation. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

06 005 Appointment of Patricia Henley to the Health Study Advisory Committee

Ms. Hackett reported that Ms. Henley has previously served on the advisory committee. A MOTION was made by Councilor Kay, second by Councilor Leary, to bring to full council with favorable recommendation. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

06 006 **Appointment of Patricia Goodwin to the Health Study Advisory Committee**

Ms. Hackett reported that Ms. Goodwin also has previously served on the advisory committee. A MOTION was made by Councilor Kay, second by Councilor Leary, to bring to full council with favorable recommendation. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

06 007 **Appointment of Kathleen Lavery to Health Study Advisory Committee.**

Ms. Hackett explained that Ms. Lavery is an employee whose type of role in the school department would not preclude her from serving. A MOTION was made by Councilor Kay, second by Councilor Leary, to bring to full council with favorable recommendation. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

06 008 **Appointment of Janet Brooks to Health Study Advisory Committee**

Ms. Hackett explained she also is an employee in the school department whose role would not preclude her from serving. A MOTION was made by Councilor Kay, second by Councilor Leary, to bring to full council with favorable recommendation. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

05 170 **Free Cash Appropriation - Police Dept. Match for Grant**

Ms. Hackett explained that the police dept. secured two grants, the town will match \$43,000 to purchase enough bulletproof vests to replace all, instead of phased in replacements. This item will also be discussed in public hearing on 1/26. Councilor Kay asked if the balance in free cash was still the same, and Ms. Hackett responded yes. A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary, seconded by Councilor O'Connor, to bring to full council with favorable recommendation. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

05 171 **Home Rule Petition-Randall Avenue Water Tower**

Mr. Wilson explained that the tower is no longer utilized funds were raised and appropriated to tear down the structure, and once property is cleared it will be considered surplus. The petition seeks to request authority from the Legislature to sell the land. A MOTION was made by Councilor Kay, to recommend favorable action on the MOTION, seconded by Councilor Leary. There was a brief discussion to answer councilors' questions on whether the town was actively pursuing selling, whether the site was able to be developed due to presence of ledge, and during which a typographical error in the MOTION was noted. At this time, Councilor Kay substituted her initial MOTION, and made a MOTION to bring to full council with favorable recommendation, with paragraph 2 of the MOTION formally amended to read: "Prior to the act taking effect..." The MOTION was seconded by Councilor Leary. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

06 001 **O'Connor and Drew Audited Financial Statements and Management Letter**

Chairman DiFazio noted that with Town Auditor Richard Swanson absent from this meeting, it would be wise to wait to discuss this item. A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to table to

the next meeting and was seconded by Councilor Kay. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

06 009 **Tax Title Request-Reserve Fund Transfer**

Mr. Wilson requested the sum of \$50,000 be raised and appropriated from the reserve fund for the Tax Title Commission to apply for court fees to continue active pursuit of unpaid property taxes. He reported on questioning from Councilor Kay that the \$50,000 request would be used for court fees, title exams, and attorney fees to Town Solicitor Lane's office as representative of the Town. Councilor Kay made a MOTION to bring to full council with favorable recommendation, and was seconded by Councilor Leary. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

06 010 **Fiscal Year 2005 Unpaid Bills-Clerk's Office**

Ms. Hackett reported on two invoices received after the close of the fiscal year; both for \$151.00, for a total of \$302.00, from the Savin Corporation. The invoices were certified /received in the Clerk's office on 9/15. Responding to Councilor Smart's question, Ms. Hackett acknowledged the invoices represented annual maintenance service contracts on equipment. A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to bring to full council with favorable recommendation and was seconded by Councilor Kay. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

06 011 **Free Cash Appropriation-Fire Department Match for Grant**

Ms. Hackett invited Chief Leary to the table and reported that the town seeks to match \$100,000 for grants written to replace the department's self-contained breathing apparatus. Chief Leary reported it was written under the "Assistance to Firefighters" grant under Department of Homeland Security. Similar to the match to the grant for the police department, the town seeks to replace all units at one time instead of a phased replacement, and the match would allow for total replacement at one time, covering the cost of the units in excess of the amount of the grant. Chief Leary reported on the condition of the existing equipment and the need to replace, citing age, normal wear and hydrostatic testing failure of the units. The match to the grant would allow for 5 complete units on each truck/ladder unit, and is limited by the number of seated positions in the Fire Department. Although the total money will still be about \$8,000.00 short, the vendor has agreed to work with the numbers to make sure all are replaced. There was a brief discussion- Councilor Kay is concerned about free cash, with the cost of snow removal, administrative contracts in negotiation, and department overtime expenses. Councilor Leary asked if a revolving fund could be set up to fund replacements; however, Mr. Wilson explained that to set up revolvings without activity over time wouldn't be feasible, since they are required to dissolve accounts for lack of activity. Councilor Leary made a MOTION to bring to full council with favorable recommendation, and was seconded by Councilor Kay. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Councilor Leary made a MOTION to take **Town Council and Town Clerk Fiscal Year 2007 Review** out of order, and was seconded by Councilor Kay. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Town Council and Town Clerk Fiscal Year 2007 Review

Mr. Fryer was invited to the table to go over his requested budget. He noted the \$12,000.00 for

mandatory new machines; one per polling place for handicapped accessibility. There was a brief discussion on the budget. Councilor Kay asked why there seemed to be a reduction in the salary requests from the prior year. She asked Mr. Fryer to review further, and return to the next meeting with an explanation for the differences. A MOTION was made by Councilor Kay to table both this item, and 06 001 to the next meeting. A request was made for the Town Auditor to be in attendance. This was seconded by Councilor Leary and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

06 014 **Expanding Technology in Weymouth Government**

Ms. Hackett reported that Councilor Kay requested to go over costs associated with the Town's website technology, and the correspondence from Councilor Whitaker which went to the IT department directly. Tom Rose of the IT department then spent significant billable time getting preliminary estimates for upgrading. Councilor Smart apologized for not catching this sooner, and requested all correspondence in the future be referred initially through the administrative offices of the Town. There was a brief discussion as to whether there was a perceived dissatisfaction from constituents with the current website, and whether e-packets or live feed updating should be included; however, Councilor Smart reminded members that e-packets may contain items of a confidential nature, such as information on ongoing CBA's. A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to return this to full committee without favorable action, which he then amended to a MOTION to return to full committee with the recommendation to take no action. This was seconded by Councilor O'Connor and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Other Business

Chairman DiFazio reported that he would entertain a motion to table the minutes from the December 13, 2005 meeting as they required further research. A MOTION was made by Councilor Kay to table the minutes. This was seconded by Councilor O'Connor and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Adjournment

At 7:30 PM, a MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to adjourn which was seconded by Councilor O'Connor and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Approved by: _____

Kenneth DiFazio, Chairperson