

TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
TOWN HALL-COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MAY 26, 2009

Present: Kenneth DiFazio, Chairman
Patrick O'Connor
Arthur Mathews
Ed Harrington

Not Present: Michael Molisse

Also Present: Maureen Duffy, Town Auditor
James Wilson, Chief Financial Officer
Michael Gallagher, Director of Administrative Services
Richard Marino, Director of Health
Frank Burke, Director of Veteran Services
Kathy Burke, Director of Youth and Family Services
Sue Barnes, Director of Elder Services
Mike Doyle, Director of Parks and Recreation

Recording Secretary: Diane T. Hachey

Councilor DiFazio called the Budget/Management meeting to order at 6:45. Councilor O'Connor motioned to take measure 09 081 out of order, seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously. Charlene Terravechia (Reappointment to the Cultural Council) was not present.

Councilor O'Connor motioned to take measure number **09 082-Appointment to the Redevelopment Authority**-Thomas Vincent, out of order, seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously.

Mr. Vincent noted that he was a member of the appropriations committee, and has ideas for redevelopment for the town. Councilor O'Connor motioned for favorable action, seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously.

09 015P-Health

Richard Marino reports that his budget is level funded for fiscal year 2010. His department is lean from the last budget cuts, therefore cuts to salaries had to be made. He covered the questions prepared by Ms. Duffy. The position reduced to part time is a nursing position, currently staffed at 35 hours, and will be decreased to 21 hours (part-time). The impact of this reduction in hours is that Mr. Marino will prioritize the workload so this change has the least impact on the department.

There are two positions which are covered by grants: the Community Health Program Coordinator and the Drug Free Community Coordinator.

Councilor Mathews asked if Mr. Marino had to cut further from the budget would he prefer furloughs or reduced hours. Mr. Marino stated that his opinion is that furloughs are administratively difficult to track and a disruption to the department workflow.

Mr. Wilson stated that this decision lies with the Mayor and not the department head.

09 015T-Elder Services

Susan Barnes confirmed that her budget is level funded for fiscal year 2010. She listed the staff reporting to her and the breakdown of salaries allocated to grants and the Town of Weymouth. The questions posed by Ms. Duffy were answered. The impact of transferring of a part time clerk to Municipal Finance was explained as the secretary who currently works part time for Elder Services will take on additional hours, and the outreach individual will take on additional hours also. Ms. Barnes explained that the remaining \$5,000 has been allocated to the “programs line item” which serves the transportation needs of the seniors.

All but one expense budgeted line item increased over fiscal year 2009 and two new accounts were added. The increases which are effected are the \$2,400 cell phone expense and the “program line item” which totals \$6,250. There are six cell phones in the department which were previously charged to Elder Services revolving account, but for fiscal year 2010 the anticipated expenses are listed under the cell phone line item.

The “other professional services line item” is new and represents conferences and registration in order for Ms. Barnes to attend the Massachusetts Council on Aging State Conference.

Ms. Barnes stated that the “photocopy line item” was increased to \$1,000 due to the unknown of the final figures from the state, therefore she is setting aside money for that purpose.

09 015S -Parks and Recreation

Mike Doyle stated that his department handles 12 month programs (mostly in summer) with 60 seasonal staff, and 2 employees. Ms. Duffy’s questions were addressed. The reason for the change in the manner in which salaries and expenses are funded and recorded is that past practice was to include summer staff and employee salaries and program fees on appropriation budget. For the fiscal year 2010 budget this will change in that there is a revolving account into which program fees will be deposited. Due to strict regulations, one can only charge seasonal staff salaries (not permanent full time) to this revolving account. This change is simply an amendment to bookkeeping.

The program fees have been increased and the programs themselves are on the rise and are able to support the expenses associated with the programs.

09 015W-Youth and Family Services

Kathy Collins explained that her department helps families in need of food, shelter, and utilities. This past Christmas they handled 435 families. The Teen Center and its associated activities are also supported by Youth and Family Services.

Councilor Mathews asked about the condition of the structure of the Teen Center. Mr. Gallagher confirmed that the windows and roof are in need of repair and they are working with the "Friends of the Teen Center" in the hope of obtaining an energy grant through the economic stimulus package.

Ms. Duffy's questions were answered. The purpose of the Community Services revolving account was originally for expenses, but has since been expanded to cover salaries which are 80% on the appropriation side and 20% on grants.

09 015R -Veteran's Services

Mr. Burke noted that he and a part- time clerical assistant who works 21 hours per week, work in the Veteran's Services Department. They serve Veterans and their families needs through helping them with insurance claims, filing for widow's benefits, assistance with VA benefits, job searches, health insurance and medical assistance. Most benefits are paid to elders who are below the minimum income levels of which there are very strict guidelines. Expenses are reimbursed at 42% in fiscal year 2009 and we are expecting a 20% reimbursement for fiscal year 2010-of which the town must pay out the remainder. The needs of Veterans in the future will probably increase. The question posed by the Auditor which asks for an explanation of the \$74,000 increase is due to the demand for services on the rise, and there is a younger unemployed population with children who are eligible for the maximum allowable benefits as they are not offset by social security benefits.

09 015V-Commission on Disabilities

The budget for the Commission on Disabilities totals \$392 and represents recording secretary allocation which is required by statute.

09 079-Use of Funds-Sale of Town Owned Property

Mr. Wilson explained that this measure represents \$60,000 to purchase two police vehicles- as the current cars are high in mileage. A grant has been issued for use during fiscal year 2010. This money is from proceeds of the sale of the Fulton School. The town is researching for the best deal possible as the car manufacturer is facing bankruptcy proceedings.

Councilor DiFazio stated that the public hearing on this measure has been scheduled for June 15 and the committee will vote following that.

09 080-Reappointment to the Board of Registrars-Ken Karlberg

Councilor O’Conner motioned for favorable action, seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously.

09 081-Reappointment to the Cultural Council-Charlene Terravecchia

Councilor O’Conner motioned for favorable action, seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously.

At 8:17 PM, there being no further business to attend to, Councilor O’Connor motioned to adjourn, motion seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Diane T. Hachey

Approved by:

Kenneth DiFazio
Chair of the Budget/Management Committee