

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
Town Hall Council Chambers  
September 15, 2005**

Present: Kenneth DiFazio, Chairperson  
Susan Kay  
Michael Molisse  
Paul J. Leary

Not Present: Colin McPherson

Also Present: James Wilson, Chief Financial Officer  
Jane Hackett, Chief of Staff  
TJ Lacey  
Michael Smart

Recording Secretary: Janet Murray

Chairman DiFazio called the Budget/Management Committee Meeting to order at 5:30pm.

**05 129 – Appointment – Board of Assessors – Jill Reddish**

Ms. Reddish was not present this evening, but is expected to attend the Budget/Management Meeting on 9/19/05 as well as the Town Council Meeting to be held the same night.

Councilor DiFazio made a MOTION to INQUIRE of Mr. Wight regarding his appointment and was seconded by Councilor Leary and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Mr. Wight stated that he would like to remain on the Board of Assessors and had believed that he would remain on the Board as his appointment had expired on 6/30/05 and he continued to attend meetings. He noted that he is currently serving as Chairman of the Board. On May 18, 2005, Mr. Wight sent a letter to the Mayor requesting re-appointment to another term. On May 27, 2005, Mr. Wight received a letter from the Mayor stating that the position would be advertised. In the past week, Mr. Wight stated that he had received a letter from the Mayor informing him that he would not be re-appointed. Mr. Wight also stated that he had met with the Mayor this morning.

Mr. Wight stated that he has been a certified assessor since 1989. Mr. Wight went on to explain the various responsibilities of the position of assessor. He noted that he has represented the town before the Appellate Board.

Other members of the Board are Paul Haley and Kevin Spellman. Jack Sheehan is the alternate member.

Mr. Wight went on to say that he would have liked to have met with the Mayor prior to the decision not to reappoint him.

Councilor Kay asked if the Mayor had given him a reason for the non-appointment. Mr. Wight stated that the Mayor wrote in his letter that it was time to involve other people.

Councilor DiFazio questioned if Mr. Wight had any issues of concerns that had been brought to his attention. Mr. Wight stated that the Mayor told him that there had been some taxpayer complaints.

Councilor Kay stated that it is the Council's job to review and then either affirm or decline the Mayor's appointments. It is ultimately up to the Mayor to appoint individuals to these positions.

Councilor Kay questioned Ms. Hackett when Ms. Reddish's resume was received. Ms. Hackett stated that she had received the resume today.

Councilor Smart stated that he had spoken with the Administration in June and July regarding this appointment. He noted that he did not think that this process went well.

Mr. Wight stated that the Principal Assessor sent a letter of recommendation to the Mayor supporting his reappointment.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Kay to TAKE UNDER ADVISEMENT Item #05 129 and was seconded by Councilor Leary and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**05 130 – Appointment – Board of Elder Services – Jeanette Rose**

This appointment will fill an established vacancy. As a new appointment, Ms. Rose will be asked to attend the full Town Council Meeting on 9/19/05

A MOTION was made by Councilor Kay to APPROVE Item #05 130 and was seconded by Councilor Leary and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**05 131 – Appointment – Board of Health – Clare LaMorte**

Councilor Kay questioned if Ms. LaMorte would be present at the Budget/Management Committee on Monday September 19, 2005 as well as the Town Council Meeting on the same evening.

Ms. Hackett stated that Karen Carriere did not want to be re-appointed to the Board of Health. Mr. Peters has stated that he wants to be re-appointed to the Board of Health. There are two positions open on the Board of Health and Ms. LaMorte is filling one of the positions.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Kay to CONTINUE Item #05 131 and was seconded by Councilor Leary and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**05 132 – Appointment – Board of Health – Bill Rennie**

Councilor Kay questioned why there were two open positions. Ms. Hackett stated that one position was created from a resignation and the second from a non-reappointment.

Mr. Rennie stated that he is interested in getting back into serving the Town. He noted that he was a previous Town Meeting member. He also stated that he had worked for Paul Haley, a former elected State Representative, for the Town of Weymouth.

Councilor Kay asked Mr. Rennie to elaborate on his healthcare experience. Mr. Rennie stated that he has worked on public health, healthcare, health insurance, and environmental areas as a certified lobbyist at the state level.

Councilor Leary questioned why it took so long to get to this issue of appointments as the terms had expired in July of this year. Ms. Hackett responded that there had been a number of reasons that made accomplishing this in a timely manner difficult.

Councilor DiFazio noted that he has worked closely with the present Board of Health and has been impressed with their work. He recommended to Mr. Rennie that close attention be paid to the many issues and an open mind be kept.

Councilor Lacey spoke on behalf of Mr. Rennie in support of his appointment.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Kaye to TAKE UNDER ADVISEMENT Item #05 132 and was seconded by Councilor Leary and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**05 133 – Appointment – Scholarship Committee – Carol Karlberg**

Ms. Karlberg was asked to serve on this Committee and has agreed to do so. It was noted that this is a natural vacancy.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to recommend FAVORABLE ACTION on Item #05 133 and was seconded by Councilor Kay and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**05 134 – Appointment – Scholarship Committee – Ginny Snell**

Ms. Snell responded to the advertisement for this position. It was noted that this is a natural vacancy.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to recommend FAVORABLE ACTION on Item #05 134 and was seconded by Councilor Kay and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**05 135 – Appointment – Veteran's Council – Paul Shinney**

Mr. Shinney responded to the advertisement for this position. It was noted that this is a natural vacancy.

It was also noted that all new appointees are requested to appear before the full Town Council. Ms. Hackett noted that Ms. Karlberg may be out of town on the date of the Council Meeting.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to recommend FAVORABLE ACTION on Item #05 135 and was seconded by Councilor Kay and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

### **Review of Capital Improvement Plan – FY 06**

Rod Fuqua of the Planning Department appeared before the Committee.

Ms. Hackett stated that the Capital Improvement Plan was submitted on March 3, 2005 to the Council. As a result of a number of requests, an effort was made to focus on sources of funding for capital projects looking forward 6 years.

All five water and sewer contracts under the Administrative Consent Order are fully funded. A request for the Montcalm sewer project is before the Budget/Management Committee in the form of a measure.

There are two long term funding priorities; building repairs, both general government and schools, and the Park Improvement Program.

Ms. Hackett stated that since March, additional money has become available from the agreement with LNR Corporation. This money would be received in FY 06 and could potentially be applied towards capital items in the Capital Improvement Plan.

The number one priority of the School Administration is the repairs at the Chapman Middle School. This would need to be done over the summer and a band payment would not be due until 2007.

Mr. Fuqua stated that all departments have been requested to submit their requests for the March 2006 Capital Improvement Plan. A spreadsheet is compiled with all of the information received. Every item is reviewed with Department Heads and staff in terms of needs and justification as well as feasibility. Each department has been asked to prioritize their requests.

Mr. Fuqua noted that the Planning Board will look at the Town's entire fleet of vehicles. Mileage, hours of operation, and repair records will be thoroughly reviewed. In terms of buildings, the Board is looking for feasibility and justification. There is a review with the Construction Steering Committee in terms of scheduling feasibility studies. This process should be completed by the end of January or early February of 2006. It is then reviewed by the Mayor's Office and the Finance Committee.

Councilor Kay stated that there are several large ticket items in 2007. She noted that the forecast for 2007 is bleak. Mr. Fuqua stated that there is potential for Homeland Security funding specifically for fire apparatus. Both the Police and Fire Chiefs are aggressively pursuing grants

to fund a number of items. Communication equipment coordinated between the Police, Fire, and IT Departments is a high priority.

Ms. Hackett noted that the \$1.3 million in mitigation from LNR is separate from the \$700,000 for the Park Improvement Plan.

Councilor Kay inquired as to the Mayor's priorities for capital improvements. Ms. Hackett stated that the priorities are water and sewer infrastructure, repair and maintenance of town and school buildings and grounds, and continued improvements at the parks. She noted that although police and fire are in the capital improvement plan, they are viewed more as operating expenses..

Councilor Kay made a MOTION to ACCEPT the Capital Improvement Plan and was seconded by Councilor Molisse and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

### **Discussion of Proposed Amended FY 06 Budget**

Mr. Wilson gave a general background regarding the budget process. He stated that a budget is a technical document. It must comply with the Town's Charter, Massachusetts' General Laws, and the Code of Massachusetts Regulations for the Department of Revenue (DOR).

In the past, under the Town Council form of government, they may only adopt those items which the statute states it may adopt. This is the operating expenses/budget for the various departments. The previous town Accountant indicated that there were other items that were outside the jurisdiction of the legislative body. The town Accountant made the decisions regarding the overlay for abatement and the state assessment. When the form of government changed, the same type of standard was adopted.

There is an extra layer added because the town hit the "magic" number of \$100 million per the DOR. Also, the Budget/Management Committee of the Town Council had asked for the budget to be tied together.

Looking to comply with the statutes and tie all of the pieces of the budget as well as making this document reasonable, Mr. Wilson stated this is what he has attempted to accomplish.

In the process, because the overlay is being reduced, rescission is necessary. He noted that in order to set the tax rate, certified votes must be taken on all measures. Certain measures were undone and others were put in place.

The state assessments are mandated by warrant by the Treasurer's Office. Technically the Town has no control over this. As there is a substantial increase in this, it must be tied in. Since it is mandated by statute it must be removed by rescission.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is the same as a measure to supplement. He said that there could have been a partial motion to amend which would have resulted in another twenty measures. Mr. Wilson stated that he did not believe that this would have made the budget flow more clearly as had been previously requested.

Mr. Wilson noted that all of the changes are summarized in the Legal Notice as well as in the Executive Summary.

Ms. Hackett stated that Administration has attempted to provide as much information as possible in the easiest format, while still complying with all statutes.

Councilor DiFazio stated that he had been surprised by the Legal Notice, and that he had not seen it previously. Ms. Hackett stated that the Legal Notice was published sooner than expected.

Councilor Leary inquired as to when a previous budget had been rescinded. Mr. Wilson stated that it had occurred in 1993 when a budget was adopted in May and rescinded in September.

Councilor DiFazio asked if there was an urgency to the schedule by which this rescission is approved. Mr. Wilson stated that as long as this is accomplished, the tax classification is done along with it. This will be submitted at the first meeting in October. He also questioned the Committee about asking Mr. Wilson, in writing, to recommend a review process. There was no issue with this. Mr. Wilson stated that this would be a collaborative effort.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for 9/22/05.

At 7:15pm, there being no further business, A MOTION was made by Councilor \_Kay to ADJOURN and was seconded by Councilor Molisse and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kenneth DiFazio, Chairperson