

**TOWN COUNCIL
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
TOWN HALL-COUNCIL CHAMBERS
16 September 2009**

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

Not Present: Michael Molisse

Also Present: Maureen Duffy, Town Auditor
Michael Gallagher, Director of Administrative Services
Scott Bois, Coordinator of Financial Services
James Clarke, Director of Planning and Community Development
Robert Luongo, Economic Development Planner
Robert O'Connor, Director of Department of Public Works

Recording Secretary: Diane T. Hachey

Councilor DiFazio called the Budget/Management Committee Meeting of 16 September 2009 to order at 6:54 PM.

09 096-Revised CDBG Funding 2009-2010

Jim Clarke stated that this is an amendment to a measure which was previously approved by Council. The total is \$821,984-- increase of \$2,324-20% which covers administrative items and an 80% increase to the Crest and Quarry Paving project.

Councilor O'Connor motioned for favorable action, motion seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously.

09 097-Rescind Bond Authorizations-City Form of Government

Scott Bois stated that this is one of two measures, the second measure is forthcoming. This will result in the clean-up of debt savings for the town and authorization is being requested in order to take this off the town records. Bonds had been previously authorized. It was noted that approval of this measure may improve the town's bond rating, making it more favorable.

Councilor O'Connor motioned for favorable action, motion seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously.

Chairman DiFazio noted that a public hearing on this measure is scheduled for October 5, 2009.

09 098- Approval of Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant (EEBG) Funds

Bob Luongo and Jim Clarke presented and explained that authorization is being requested in order to spend funding received from the Dept. of Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant program. A requirement of the grant is that one must have an energy strategy for the town in order to access funds. It was noted that the proposed budget is \$4,999 for energy efficiency strategies, \$20,460 for energy efficiency technical assistance, \$110,000 for Information Technology, \$301,710 for efficiency lighting (schools and municipal buildings) \$17,500 for LED signaling, \$31,131 for administrative costs—for a total of \$485,800.

LED represent the town owned traffic signals in town, not street lights. This is the first time that this program was funded through the Recovery Acts and strictly applies to town applications and not schools. It was noted that a potential savings of 130k kilowatt hours per year could be realized for the town.

Jim Clarke is hopeful that the government will continue this program in the future as savings when all is said and done will be substantial.

Councilor O'Connor motioned for favorable action, seconded by Councilor Mathews, and voted unanimously.

09 099- New Engine for the Fire Department

Scott Bois presented to the committee and stated that this measure is to raise and appropriate \$455,000 in order to purchase an engine for the Fire Department. This vehicle would replace engine number 5. The lease payment is for the next 4 years and will come through the general fund and is included in the Capital Improvement Plan. Discussion ensued and resulted in acknowledgement that payments will come off the ladder trucks when these payments commence. When engine 5 is taken out of service, the department does not have a substitute therefore as the lease goes off the books we will replace it with a new piece of equipment (with a new lease).

Councilor O'Connor motioned for favorable action, seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously.

09 100-Charter Committee Request

Michael Gallagher stated that this is a reserve fund transfer in the amount of \$6,000 (\$5,000 for Recording Secretary and \$1,000 for miscellaneous expenditures). These costs are estimates.

Councilor Mathews noted that the Committee met in August and again this past Monday. The next meeting will occur on September 22 at 7:00 PM.

Councilor O'Connor motioned for favorable action, seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously.

09 102- Appointment to the Recreation Commission-Colleen Kelley

Ms. Kelley was present and noted that she was born, raised and educated in the town, is a retired civil engineer, and is interested in parks and improving park and recreation programs. Councilor O'Connor spoke on Ms. Kelly's behalf and noted her dedication and involvement with the Homestead Civic Landing Association.

Councilor O'Connor motioned for favorable action, seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously.

09 103- Appointment to the Historical Commission- Donald Mathewson

Mr. Mathewson was present and stated that he is a life long resident of the town, past Town Meeting Member, was formerly a Historical Commission member but had to leave and now wishes to return to his post.

Councilor O'Connor motioned for favorable action, seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously.

09 104- Appointment to the Historical Commission-Philip Smith

Mr. Smith was present and noted his residency in the town, dating back to 1986. He is a past member of the Weymouth Historical Society, and an Assistant Curator for the town of Quincy.

Councilor O'Connor motioned for favorable action, seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously.

Mr. Clarke requested that if the committee takes action this evening, since there is a Conservation Meeting on September 23rd to kindly appoint a date certain, as there are members who have been temporarily assigned to the committee and are working on cases.

It was determined that the date certain would be that appointments commence on October 5, 2009.

09 105- Appointment to the Conservation Commission-Steve DeGabriele

Mr. DeGabriele was present and noted his 28 years as a resident of the town, past Town Meeting Member and expressed his interest in public service.

Councilor Mathews noted Mr. DeGabriele's current employment with the DEP and voiced his concern with a potential conflict of interest. Councilor Mathews stated that appeals of Conservation Commission issues are forwarded to the DEP. He suggests a letter from the State Ethics Commission stating their ruling on this matter. Councilor Mathews would feel more comfortable voting in the affirmative once something in writing is received.

Mr. DeGabriele has previously looked into this matter with the State Ethics Commission and was advised that he cannot accept a stipend for serving on the Commission and is not permitted to act on matters directly involved with the DEP. Additionally, if/when appointed to the commission, Mr. DeGabriele must act on behalf of and in the best interests of the Town of Weymouth.

Mr. DeGabriele noted an issue in that a written statement will take a while to obtain and he confirmed his familiarity with conflict of interest laws as a state official.

Jim Clarke noted that Mary Ellen Schloss and George Lane have been made aware of the situation. Chairman DiFazio requested that the Budget/Management Committee be given something in writing from the DEP, prior to October 5- which is the Council deadline to vote this appointment. Councilor Harrington also requested that he would like something formal in writing from the State Ethics Commission.

Councilor O'Connor motioned to table this appointment, seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously.

09 106- Appointment to the Conservation Commission-Laura Harbottle

Ms. Harbottle was present and noted that she is a Planner and would like the opportunity to serve the town.

Councilor O'Connor motioned for favorable action, noting that the effective date would be October 5th--motion was seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously.

Chairman DiFazio requested that all appointments appear before Council on September 21- with the exception of Mr. DeGabriele.

09 107- Appointment to the Conservation Commission-George Loring III

Mr. Loring was present and stated is experience with the Herring Run for the past 26 years-10 of which he was the Warden. He was on the Commission previously, and wishes to return.

Councilor O'Connor motioned for favorable action, noting that the effective date would be October 5th--motion was seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously.

09 108- Appointment to the Conservation Commission-Scott Dowd

Mr. Dowd was present and explained that he is a professional biologist at the New England Aquarium. Councilor Mathews commended Mr. Dowd for his past work on the Whitman's Pond Association. Councilor O'Connor extended thanks to the administration for the array of experience of the candidates for the Conservation Commission.

Councilor O'Connor motioned for favorable action, noting that the effective date would be October 5th--motion was seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously.

At 7:35 PM, there being no further business to conduct, Councilor O'Connor motioned to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Diane T. Hachey

Approved by:

Chairman Kenneth DiFazio