

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
October 27th, 2005**

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

Also Present: Greg Shanahan
James Wilson, Chief Financial Officer
Jane Hackett, Chief of Staff
Pam Pantermoller, Principal Assessor
Paul Haley, Chairman/Board of Assessors

Recording Secretary: Susan DeChristoforo

Chairman DiFazio called the October 27th, 2005 meeting of the Budget/Management Committee to order at 6:30 PM.

05 043 - Tax Classification

Councilor DiFazio stated the Committee would be addressing one item only this evening; Item 05-043/Tax Classification, which was referred to the Budget/ Management Committee by the Town Council on October 17, 2005.

At this point, Paul Haley, Chairman of the Board of Assessors, and Pam Pantermoller, Principal Assessor, came before the Committee to address their recommendation for the FY06 tax classification.

Mr. Haley referred to the breakdown of the tax levy and burden packet that was previously forwarded to the members, which outlined his presentation this evening. He stated that the Board of Assessors are recommending the Town adopt a similar shift in the tax burden for FY06 as last year, adding that they are specifically suggesting a 75% shift. He said that cities and towns might elect to shift the tax burden and quickly noted that the adoption of rates doesn't change the rate, just the percentage of each class. He stated that commercial, industrial and personal property could be increased by 75%, adding that at least 65% is raised without a shift, with a minimum residential factor. He reiterated that the Board of Assessors was recommending 75%. He explained that if they were in favor of 75%, or 37% or 25%; the minimum residential factor will still be met, commenting that they have complete flexibility.

Mr. Haley then referred to Page 3 of his handout, which he noted, demonstrated what the shift would mean regarding tax burden and tax rate. He wanted to clarify that the figures on the page were estimates.

Pam Pantermoller, Principal Assessor told members that she hoped by tomorrow the numbers would be certified.

Mr. Haley told members to refer to the column that depicted the 75% shift, which equated to a dollar rate of \$8.93 per \$1,000. He pointed out that last year it was \$8.85 per \$1,000 - so if approved, there would only be a minimal increase \$.07 per \$1,000 for residential. He informed members that last year the legislature allowed a one-time shift beyond 75%. Further, he said, if they went beyond 75% last year, then they would have to recoup it within five years.

Mr. Haley went on to state that it is anticipated that next year the overall property values will go down, adding that it has been noted that within the last couple of months it is taking longer for houses to move. Based on this information, he felt the recommendation was in order.

Councilor Leary was strongly in favor, stating that there is no question the recommendation was in order. He was pleased to see that there was no recommendation of a residential exemption, commenting that it hasn't worked in the past. In closing, he said he was happy with Chairman Haley's presentation and recommendation.

Councilor DiFazio spoke next, commenting that last year when the Town went to 75%, the commercial property owners felt there would be adverse affects. Based on that he asked Mr. Haley if he was aware of any businesses moving out of town in the past year.

Pam Pantermoller responded 'no', adding that some small businesses come and go, but that happens in all communities. She told members that overall there was no real impact based on the 75%.

Councilor Leary commented that he felt the Town of Weymouth was a low tax burden community that offered a lot of services, including free trash pick-up.

Ms. Hackett spoke next, informing members that the Mayor fully supported Mr. Haley's recommendation and felt that the packet they submitted was excellent. In closing she said the Mayor would like to see the full Council take action by November 28th so that they could get the rate finalized and tax bills out.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to recommend Favorable Action on 05 085 and to bring the recommendation to the full Council and was seconded by Councilor Molisse and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:45 PM a MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to ADJOURN and was seconded by Councilor Molisse and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Approved by: _____
Kenneth DiFazio, Chairperson