

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Budget/Management COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
December 4, 2006

Present: Kenneth J. DiFazio, Chairperson
Sue Kay, Vice-Chairperson
Paul J. Leary
Michael Molisse
Patrick O'Connor

Also Present: Franklin Fryer, Town Clerk
Jane Hackett, Chief of Staff
Greg Shanahan, Councilor
James Wilson, Chief Financial Officer

Recording Secretary: Janet Murray

Chairman DiFazio called the Budget/Management Committee Meeting to order at 7:00pm.

06 158-Bond Authorization for Extraordinary Repairs for Parks and Playgrounds

Ms. Hackett stated that she was expecting Mr. O'Connor, Director of DPW, and Environmental Partners present, but she wasn't sure if they knew that they were to appear before both the Committee and the Council.

She stated that this is a bonding request for \$1.3 million. The impact on the FY 08 budget is \$65,000.

This is work that has been in the planning stages for the past few years. It became urgent when contaminants were discovered at the Julia Road site.

Three specific problem locations were identified; short field (2nd base), right center, and around the first base line. These sites will be excavated and removed off-site. There will not be a significant grade change at the site. The field itself will be renovated. It will be similar to the current layout, but upgraded to current standards.

The Mayor has met with the neighbors on three occasions. One concern raised by an abutter was where parking would be located and also the location of trees. The resident asked to have trees removed that blocked the view of the park and to plant trees to block the view of the parking lot. The Mayor has made arrangements to meet these requests.

Councilor Leary asked what the \$65,000 represented. Mr. Wilson stated that it is the interest payment for FY 08.

Ms. Kay questioned the existence of soccer fields. Ms. Hackett stated that the outfield is currently used for soccer purposes.

Ms. Kay asked what is meant by cold plaining. Ms. Hackett stated that it is the coat put down first, then the binder course goes on and finally the finish coat is laid.

Ms. Kay asked about the planting of the trees. Ms. Hackett stated that the trees will be planted as buffer between the residents and the field along the 3rd base line. The trees will be 6 to 7 feet in height.

The bleachers would be smaller than those at Weston Field. The Weston Park bleachers hold 750 spectators.

Mr. Paul Gabriel of Environmental Partners gave a brief presentation regarding the renovations at the Julia Road fields.

Ms. Kay asked if the outfield would be regulation size for a soccer field. Mr. Gabriel stated that there is sufficient room to accommodate this.

The detention pond will only be a few feet deep. Fencing is not planned at this time. However, the detention pond may be eliminated depending on proposed changes to the placement for the parking area.

Mr. Gabriel stated that the infiltration basin will allow water to percolate. The design is such that the water is not retained; it is designed to allow the water to infiltrate.

Councilor DiFazio asked about the long-term financial impact. Mr. Wilson stated that this will be a 20- year bond which will cost approximately \$125,000 per year of debt service.

Councilor O'Connor asked for the timeline expected for the project. The bids will go out in the spring. Construction would be in the late spring and into the summer. Two growing seasons would put the opening of the field in late 2008.

Councilor DiFazio asked if there was capping. Mr. Gabriel stated that there would be a cover material.

Councilor O'Connor asked if there were any youth groups that were relocated because of the problems at this field. Ms. Hackett stated that the North Weymouth Baseball League was moved to Brad Hawes Park. The plan is for them to return to Julia Road once repairs are completed.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to send item number 06 158 to the full Council with a FAVORABLE REPORT and was seconded by Councilor O'Connor and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

At 7:25 pm, there being no further business, A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to ADJOURN and was seconded by Councilor Kay and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Approved by: _____
Kenneth J. DiFazio, Chairperson