

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
April 5, 2010 - Monday

Present: Patrick O'Connor, Vice Chairperson
Arthur Mathews, Councilor
Michael Smart, Councilor

Not Present: Ken DiFazio, Chairperson
Michael Molisse, Councilor
Maureen Duffy, Town Auditor

Also Present: James Wilson, CFO
James Clarke, Director, Planning and Development
Robert Leary, Chief, WFD

Recording Secretary: Mary Briggs

Chairman Kenneth DiFazio called the Budget/Management Committee meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

10 017-Snow Removal – Free Cash Appropriation

Mr. Wilson reported for the committee that this is a housekeeping issue and not all of the \$25,000 (amended from original request of \$150,000) funds may be necessary. The funds will now be used to replenish salt and sand supplies, purchasing \$18,000-19,000 on this year's bid pricing.

There was a brief discussion on whether this will be future practice, Mr. Wilson responded that it would depend on free cash available.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Mathews to recommend favorable action to the full Town Council, as amended, and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

10 019-Fire Department Overtime Re-appropriation

Chief Leary requested a re-appropriation of \$150,000 from the Fire Suppression Salary line item to the Fire Suppression Overtime line item. He noted the Mayor was in agreement with this request. He stated that this is not unusual; nearing the end of the year, and unable to fill openings within the department, shifts open due to sickness and vacation must then be covered by overtime. He provided a spreadsheet to the committee outlining the summary of lost time in the department. He did note that the numbers are slightly higher than last year, but not as high as 2005.

There was a brief discussion, on the number of unfilled positions, the cost to fill vacancy by overtime versus a new hire, the average cost to train new hires, and the amount of time between hiring and having a trained firefighter on the roster.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Mathews to recommend favorable action to the full Town Council and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Discussion of Fiscal Year 2011 Town Council Budget

Councilor Mathews reviewed the process of drafting the budget. The Mayor originally requested departments level fund; a 4% reduction was then requested due to a decrease in local aid. He reviewed the proposed draft of the budget, which includes reductions in the miscellaneous line item, reducing the hours of the Auditor from 24 to 20 hours, Assistant to the Council from 35 to 32.5 and the Licensing Secretary from 21 to 18 hours through furlough. He did note he would need to make one change; the Licensing Secretary would only require reduction to 18.75 hours in order for her to keep her health insurance benefit.

There was a brief discussion which included copier lease versus the cost effectiveness of copier purchase.

Adjournment

At 6:55 PM, there being no further business, Councilor O'Connor made a MOTION to ADJOURN the meeting and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Mary Briggs-Recording Secretary