

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Budget Management Committee
Town Hall Council Chambers
May 5, 2010

PRESENT: Kenneth DiFazio, Chairperson
Patrick O'Connor, Vice Chairperson
Michael Smart
Arthur Mathews
Michael Molisse
Kevin Whitaker

ALSO PRESENT: James Wilson, Chief Financial Officer
Bob O'Connor, Director of Public Works
Mike Chiasson, Superintendent of Water & Sewer
Dave Towers, Business Operations Manager
Chief Richard C. Grimes, Chief of Police
Captain Joseph Comperchio, Assistant to Chief Grimes

RECORDING SECRETARY: Adele M. Cullinane

Chairman DiFazio called the Budget/Management Committee meeting to order at 6:45 P.M.

Chairman DiFazio, at the request of Chief Financial Officer Mr. James Wilson, asks the Committee if they would take a bundle of measures out of order of the Agenda: 10-065 through 10-067 and then 10-062 through 10-064. MOTION seconded by Councilor O'Connor and **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

SEWER DIVISION BUDGET

10-065 Reserve Fund Transfer, Sewer Department - \$50,000

Mr. Wilson introduces Mr. Chiasson, Superintendent of Water & Sewer. The Sewer Division requests the transfer of \$50,000 from the Reserve Fund to cover the cost of a major rupture of an 18" corroded sewer pipe for immediate repair that caused a 15' x 20' sink hole on Hinston Road. After further investigation, other pipes in the area look exactly the same. These pipes were laid in the 1950's and have outlived their useful life. Hydrogen sulfide discharge from the pump stations most likely caused this erosion in addition to the heavy rains we've recently had. This \$50,000 is only for the design of the repair.

Councilor O'Connor makes a MOTION for favorable action on measure number 10 065; Councilor Mathews seconds. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

10-066 Appropriate \$500,000 Sewer Retained Earnings, Hinston Road

The Sewer Division is requesting the appropriation of \$500,000 of Sewer Retained Earnings to repair Hinston Road. Councilor Mathews believes that this piping which was laid 60 years ago, goes from 18' to 24' back to 18' in places and probably accelerated the burst. Councilor Mathews is requesting that we should replace these pipes with all 24" pipes so they will last another 50 years.

Mr. Wilson confirms to Chairman DiFazio that there is money available in the "0002 accounts – projects that never got off the ground. Think of retained earnings as free cash...the difference between revenues and expenses'.

Councilor O'Connor makes a MOTION for favorable action on measure number 10 066;
Councilor Mathews seconds. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

10-067 Appropriate \$600,000 Water Retained Earnings, Washington Street Culvert Repairs

Mr. Chiasson explains that the culvert between Whitman's Pond and Weir Gate is no longer holding back the water for our reservoir. The Slew's gate is used to hold back water from South Cove up to Great Pond and maintains the level on both sides. The \$600,000 is for design, construction services and repairs to repair the culvert.

Councilor Mathews makes note that not only is the town putting up \$600,000 but this project is also having MASS Highway do the actual work for us; well over \$1 million for this state highway project.

Councilor O'Connor makes a MOTION for favorable action on measure number 10 067;
Councilor Mathews seconds. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

POLICE BUDGET

10-062 Free cash appropriation, Police Department vehicle \$35,000

Mr. Wilson introduces Chief Grimes, Weymouth Police Department and Captain Comperchio.

Chief Grimes explains that usually 6-7 police cars are replaced annually which enables them to keep their front line cars, the ones that are running 24 hours a day, at the peak for performance. Ford is discontinuing the Crown Victoria so they are preparing for that change by looking at the Dodge Charger and several other possibilities. The reason for the \$35,000 is that it would be a totally new car to the fleet whereas before they could swap off parts from one car to another. With this new car, they won't have that supply of used parts on hand. The Dodge Charger is on the State Contract. The process of the life-use of the front line cars is they are continually shifted back and back through the fleet. Routine maintenance is done through DPW.

Councilor O'Connor makes a MOTION for favorable action on measure number 10 062;
Councilor Mathews seconds. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

10-063 Free cash appropriation, Police Department Report Filing System, \$17,000

Chief Grimes explains that this Report Filing System will help the Police with their FY11 budget concerns. Captain Comperchio researched and found this product that will allow citizens to file certain crime reports on-line such as vandalism or theft, insurance claims etc. This would free up about an hour and a half of the officer on duty's time to attend to more serious crimes. This would allow the citizen to send their report and communicate directly with the Police. If an officer is needed, then an officer will be sent out. The savings would be tremendous to their budget in man-hours. The system costs \$10,000 and the support costs are \$7,000. There are 6 other Police Forces that are using it in MA. It was noted that this is a brand new concept mostly used in the western part of the United States.

Councilor O'Connor makes a MOTION for favorable action on measure number 10 063; Councilor Mathews seconds. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

10-064 Reserve Fund Transfer, Police Department \$12,670

Chief Grimes explains that this transfer is for the purchase of ammunition and for training purposes. New training regulations have come down from the state requiring officers to fire their service pistols two different times during the year. This will allow us to stockpile our ammunition so that we will be in compliance with the new training mandates. It is purchased off the State Bid so the price is the same for all towns. The shelf life for the ammunition is indefinite if stored properly. We have "in-house" training for the officers to train and we are looking into the possibility of using fire ranges in surrounding areas such as Moon Island and there is also a range in Hanover.

Councilor O'Connor makes a MOTION for favorable action on measure number 10 064 Councilor Mathews seconds. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Review and discussion of Police Department Budget with Chief Financial Officer, Chief of Police and Applicable Senior Staff

Deliberate the following measure: 10-020-L Police Department Budget

Chief Grimes explains that Captain Comperchio oversees the Administrative Division within the Police Department. They will be providing an overview of their reductions and eliminations.

The staffing level for FY11 will represent a decrease of 24 positions-- bringing the number of full and part-time employees to 114. Counting the Chief of Police, there will be 92 sworn officers, 3 Captains, 8 Lieutenants, 10 sergeants, 71 patrol officers, 9 civilian support personnel, 9 civilian dispatchers; animal patrol position and harbor patrol.

The elimination of the following positions for FY11: 14 traffic officers. A survey was conducted over two months and discovered that most children are driven to school in the winter

months and the walkers are minimal. Officer Barry suggested proper traffic patterns for children dropped off at schools would be a way to eliminate the need for crossing guards at certain schools. Spring and fall generate more walkers but still not enough to generate a crossing guard. The numbers have really fallen off over the years. A tough decision had to be made whether or not to let go of 2 trained police officers or more of the responsibility be asked of parental supervision, neighbors in the area or crossing lights.

Councilor Mathews recommends the DPW paint neon yellow for crosswalks and notifications be sent out by Officer Barry before the end of this school year regarding the elimination of the crossing guard for the FY11 school year.

An IT technical support officer's position (through attrition) was absorbed into Captain Comperchio's position. Mr. Gallagher will be consulted and utilized more by not filling this position.

Investigator's position (through attrition) will not be filled leaving a total of 14 detectives. Two uniformed patrol positions vacated through attrition or moves out of area will not be filled. Reorganization within the division will absorb the vacancy.

The Traffic Officer's Division elimination alone makes up approximately \$134, 000 of the cuts for salaries, uniforms, retirement benefits, and sick time.

The reduction and elimination of positions to the Harbor Control department will be a total of \$8,872.

The reduction to date in the Police Budget is a total of \$450,002.16 as follows:

Categories

Elimination of Traffic Supervisors (14)	\$	99,627.80
Elimination of Vacancy - Tech Support	\$	94,140.63
Elimination of Vacancy - Investigations	\$	78,664.92
Elimination of Vacancy - Uniform Patrol	\$	58,167.73
Elimination of Vacancy - Uniform Patrol	\$	55,100.78
Elimination of Reserve Traffic Supervisors (5)	\$	15,000.00
Reduction Clothing & Cleaning Allowance Expense Traffic Supervisors	\$	8,150.00
Reduction in Overtime Expenses	\$	5,000.00
Reduction Miscellaneous Expenses:	\$	6,775.30

Man/Admin Books Publishing	\$	650.00
Man/Admin Conference	\$	400.00
Man/Admin Medical Exams	\$	1,250.00
Man/Admin Misc.	\$	1,500.00
Man/Admin Training Aids	\$	1,000.00
Investigations Training Aids	\$	580.00
Rech Support Radio Maint	\$	1,395.30

Sub-Total

\$ 420,627.16

Reduction in Traffic Retirement Payout	\$ 12,500.00
Reduction in Tech Support Computer Software	\$ 2,000.00
Elimination of Animal Control Inspections	\$ 6,000.00
Reduction of Harbor Patrol Salary Launch Ramp	\$ 1,824.00
Elimination of Harbor Patrol Salary Shellfish Warden	\$ 7,051.00
Sub-Total	\$ 29,375.00
Total	\$ 450,002.16

The Chief arrived at the reductions to staff and positions by doing an in-depth analysis (above). The breakdown of staffing, shifts, calls to service, and miscellaneous eliminations that have been made recently are being absorbed by all so that the impact of the reduction will not affect the high level of public service. The detectives have been reduced by one (1) as well as changing their format from a 16 hour shift coverage to an administrative shift coverage of 3 days/2 evenings shifts, reducing manpower needed. It is the largest manpower shift experienced in years. In the last 30 days that the department has implemented this trial run, this change has seen a reduction in overtime and less sick time has been taken. As a result, this gives the detectives throughout the day time to continue their investigations, and their success rate has been phenomenal. This on-line system of reporting which was discussed earlier, was designed with the idea of freeing up patrol cars so that the response time will not be affected but the need to prioritize calls will most definitely need to be conducted.

Chief Grimes listed the capital issues that still need to be addressed: the Police Station, 15 years old, has a roof that has leaked since its been opened; the annual need for front line police cars; the On-line Communication system; the phone recording system that breaks down often needs to be upgraded; continuous training the Police need to keep current; the Website development that goes hand in hand with our on-line system being implemented; the Police Academy should be brought back; and the Rape Aggression Defense course should be brought back for the high school girls to educate them in their defense. South Field will eventually come in to play down the road and we will need to work on a course of action for that, a different car plan.

Chairman DiFazio asks if this budget includes any union pay raises or step raises and the Chief states that it does not. Another question regarding the Quinn Bill is explained by CFO Wilson and how it is funded by the Federal Government and what percentage the town is responsible for.

Councilor Molisse compliments Chief Grimes on the fantastic job he is doing with all the cuts and continuous implementing of new approaches of doing “more with less”.

Councilor O’Connor praises the Chief for his forward thinking of “out of the box” ideas and his “pro-active” approach to bringing the Town of Weymouth into the 21st Century even with the depleted budget he has been asked to work with.

Chief Grimes notes that the Police Patrolman’s Association is currently 3 years out of contract negotiations. He makes special note of the seriousness of maintaining a priority for public safety to the community in these serious times of budget cuts.

Councilor O'Connor makes a **MOTION to bundle Items 10-046 through 10-058** and send all the re-appointment items to the full Town Council for favorable action. Councilor Whitaker seconds. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

At 8:45 PM, there being no further business, Councilor O'Connor made a **MOTION to ADJOURN** the meeting and was seconded by Councilor Whitaker. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

Respectfully submitted,
Adele Cullinane, Recording Secretary.

Approved by Kenneth DiFazio, Chairman of Budget/Management Committee