

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
Town Hall Council Chambers  
June 16, 2010 - Wednesday

Present: Kenneth DiFazio, Chairperson  
Patrick O'Connor, Vice Chairperson  
Arthur Mathews, Council President  
Michael Molisse, Councilor  
Michael Smart, Councilor

Also Present: James Wilson, Chief Financial Officer  
James Clarke, Director, Planning and Development

Recording Secretary: Mary Briggs

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

**10 072-CDBG & Home Funding 2010-2011**

Mr. Clarke reported on the annual review and approval for CDBG and Home Funding. He provided a handout to the committee and reviewed the information. The allocation for the upcoming year in CDBG is \$895,658. Carryover from prior year balances (where projects completed under budget) is \$73,165. There will be a change in the use of the \$100,000 in the housing rehabilitation program for the next year; it's monitored by HUD and there is some concern with the length of time without new contracts. HUD has suggested running a zero interest loan program as opposed to the current 3%.

He reviewed the amounts allocated to administration and planning which cannot total more than 20%, or \$179,131.60.

Public Service restriction cannot exceed 15%; these programs have been reviewed through a public hearing process and the Mayor has agreed to fund:

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| • Weymouth Housing Authority residential service coordinator | \$12,186    |
| • Department of Elder Services senior transportation         | \$32,218    |
| • Department of Elder Services courses and workshops         | \$37,227    |
| • Father Bill's homeless case management                     | \$28,000    |
| • QCAD homeless and housing counseling services              | \$6,000     |
| • WEYCARE BASKET program subsidy                             | \$16,005.70 |
| • South Shore Elder Services Meals on Wheels Program         | \$27,012    |

Projects include:

- |                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| • Housing Services | \$82,095 |
|--------------------|----------|



- Josiah Reed House/ Whitaker Home in Columbian Square \$10,000
- DPW Seaver/Oliver/Lakeview drainage/paving improvements \$65,000
- DPW White Street water main improvements \$245,858
- Weymouth Elder Services-window replacement \$200,000

Total allocation for projects is \$602,953. \$582,177.70 is available from this year's funds. \$20,775.30 is being taken from the previously unexpended funds for projects of \$70,165. Total allocations are \$916,433.30.

He then reviewed the HOME program. Weymouth belongs to a consortium with Quincy, Braintree, Holbrook and Milton. \$218,118.00 was awarded this year which has been allocated to the following programs:

Administration of the grant	\$21,811
CHOTO set aside (QCAP and Neighborhood Housing Svc.)	\$32,718
First Time Homebuyer Program- mortgage assistance	\$50,000
Rental Subsidies – not allocated to any specific program at this time	\$113,589

There was a brief discussion with the committee, specifically with the first time homebuyer programs, Meals on Wheels, the Weycare Program, and possible CPC funding available for the Whitaker Retirement home.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 072 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

#### **10 077-Reserve Fund Transfer-Capital Expenses for Police Department Radios**

This item was carried over from the June 16, 2010 Budget /Management Committee meeting. Mr. Wilson noted that the Mayor has requested this item be withdrawn so the funds can be utilized in a another manner. These items may be more appropriately purchased at the beginning of the new fiscal year.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to withdraw item 10 077 and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

#### ***Follow up of Outstanding Budget Issue***

Chairman DiFazio requested Mr. Lane address the action taken by the Weymouth Teachers Association reported in the press and any effect it will have on the budget review. Mr. Lane responded that it should not.

#### ***Vote the Following Measures for Fiscal Year 2011 Budget:***

Chairman DiFazio briefly reviewed the timeline for review.

At 7:10 PM, a MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to take a 5-minute recess and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.



At 7:15, the committee reconvened and Councilor Mathews arrived.

**10 020A-Town Council**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$253,296.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 020A to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. VOTE passed 4/1.

**10 020B-Mayor's Office**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$947,413.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 020B to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. VOTE passed 4/1.

**10 020C-Reserve Fund**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$528,646.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 020C to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**10 020D-Municipal Finance**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$1,610,331.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 020D to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. VOTE passed 4/1.

**10 020E-Town Solicitor**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$313,102.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 020E to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**10 020F-Information Services**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$677,345.



A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 020F to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews.

There was a brief discussion with Mr. Gallagher regarding the possibility of merging these services town-wide. VOTE passed 4/1.

**10 020G-Town Clerk**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$278,803.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 020G to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. VOTE passed 4/1.

**10 020H-Planning and Development**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$353,203.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 020H to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. VOTE passed 4/1.

**10 020I-Town Building Maintenance**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$421,496.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 020I to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. VOTE passed 4/1.

**10 020J-Administrative Services**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$72,009.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 020J to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. VOTE passed 4/1.

**10 020K-Human Resources**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$179,562.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 020K to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. There was a brief discussion of possible overlap in services with the school



department. VOTE passed 4/1.

**10 020L-Police Department**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$9,287,378.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Mathews to forward item 10 020L to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Smart. VOTE passed 3/1/1.

**10 020M-Fire Department**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$7,433,527.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Mathews to forward item 10 020M to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Smart. VOTE passed 3/2.

**10 020N-Licensing and Inspections**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$462,426.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 020N to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. VOTE passed 4/1.

**10 020O-Department of Public Works**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$8,690,015.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 020O to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. VOTE passed 4/1.

**10 020P-Health**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$398,295.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 020P to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. VOTE passed 4/1.

**10 020Q-Library**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$991,910.



A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 020Q to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. VOTE passed 4/1.

**10 020R-Veterans' Services**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$483,489.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 020R to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**10 020S-Parks and Recreation**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$211,835.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 020S to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. There was a brief discussion of suggested change in the fee scale for field use in the future. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**10 020T-Elder Services**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$169,414.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 020T to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**10 020U-Civil Defense**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$8,108.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 020U to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**10 020V-Commission on Disabilities**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$392.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 020V to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.



### **10 020W-Youth and Family Services**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$39,171.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 020W to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

### **10 020X-Debt**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$9,460,262.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 020X to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

### **10 020Y-Pensions and Benefits**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$28,512,397.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 020Y to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. There was a brief discussion regarding the future of this expense, and a change in how these are funded, as they are gradually becoming the highest cost driver in the budget. It will be a subject for discussion at council in the fall. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

### **10 020Z-Schools**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$51,506,261.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Mathews to forward item 10 020Z to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Smart.

A discussion followed. Councilor Smart noted the amount of time reviewing this item and there are many areas in this budget with overlap in services; however the committee does not have the authority to tell the school committee how it can administer it. Every suggestion made by the committee regarding suggested changes were adamantly opposed by the school administration and school committee members. The message from the residents in the town is clear; keep the teachers in classrooms, and class sizes down.

Chairman DiFazio noted that the committee can vote to not support the spending plan as a way to get a message to the school committee that there is dissatisfaction with the plan to reorganize the middle schools.



Councilor O'Connor agreed. Priorities in the school system should be to educate the children; not to assist the administration. Eliminating some of the administration positions will allow for more teachers. Reconfiguration of the middle school program will be detrimental to the system. He believes this will be devastating. He also thinks putting the alternative school program in the high school will negatively affect students.

Chairman DiFazio noted he agreed; particularly where the reconfiguration of the middle school model. He would hope any vote taken by the committee will be taken as a clear message to the school committee.

Councilor Molisse agreed that the budget proposed will set back the system. The reorganization will be a disservice to the students. The spending plan should be set up to serve the students' needs, and this one does not.

Councilor Mathews noted that they have all been critical in the review process of several items in the proposed school spending plan, but without line item veto power, there is little the council to do. Not supporting the plan at full council is not going to solve the problem, but he hopes the school committee will heed the advice of the committee.

Councilor O'Connor noted that there must also be an effort in supplemental budgets to meet the net school spending to show the state the effort is being met and to avoid ramifications of not meeting.

Councilor Mathews noted his difficulty in deliberating a budget which has not been voted by the school committee. Whatever is offered is an opinion.

Chairman DiFazio noted that the reconfiguration is not something easily reversed if money becomes available.

Councilor Smart asked if the town will be under the 5% required for net school spending and not in penalty. Mr. Wilson responded that the budget is a separate issue. There is legislation passed in House and Senate that will permit Weymouth to amend its FY09, FY08, FY07 net school spending calculations. if all conditions are met, and it looks like they will be, in all likelihood the town will be within the 5% threshold and not be in penalty for FY11.

A SUBSTITUTE MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor that item 10 020Z be forwarded to the full Town Council with a recommendation for unfavorable action, with an explanation to the council that encompasses the deliberation at committee and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. VOTE PASSED 4/1.

#### **10 020AA-State and County Assessments**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$2,189,010.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Mathews to forward item 10 020AA to the full



Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Smart. VOTE passed 4/1.

**10 020BB-Overlay for Abatements**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$700,000.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 020BB to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**10 020-General Government Annual Appropriation**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and the budget request is for \$126,159,097, plus \$40,000 to meet the Harbormaster Program.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 020 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews.

A discussion followed, regarding the effect of a vote on an individual budget on the entire budget. The number is known and there is no intent to reduce any department's budget. Councilor O'Connor noted that the budget should have been larger, and there should have been a temporary increase in the trash fees to supplement the public safety programs. The mayor should have taken a political risk and the constituents agree. Chairman DiFazio noted that this should not be the mayor's first response, but her last in order to generate revenue. Councilor O'Connor responded that the crisis in public safety issues and the loss of teachers in classrooms justifies it.

Councilor Mathews noted that the main reason the town is in the position it is is a direct result of the state's inability to prioritize local aid.

Councilor Smart noted that he does not support a raise in the trash fee by taxing of a small percentage of the residents in the town to address a larger problem. He would prefer to see the duplication and overlap in services eliminated. VOTE PASSED 3/2.

**10 021-Revolving Accounts Annual Authorization**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee and is for five separate revolving accounts.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 021 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**10 022-Gift Accounts Annual Authorization**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee which has several gift accounts.



A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 022 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. Councilor Smart noted that the town certainly appreciates any donations by individuals and organizations. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**10 024-Fiscal Year 2011 Supplemental Appropriation for Unemployment Insurance Liability**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee. This is a request for a \$500,000 supplemental appropriation from free cash to fund Unemployment Insurance.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 021A to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**10 025-Free Cash Appropriation-53 Payroll Week**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee. This is a request for \$510,000 supplemental appropriation from free cash to fund a 53<sup>rd</sup> payroll week, which occurs every six years.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 021A to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**10 026-Sewer Enterprise Fund Annual Appropriation**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee. This budget request is for \$13,573,262 for the annual appropriation of the Sewer Enterprise fund.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 021A to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**10 027-Water Enterprise Fund Annual Appropriation**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee. This is for \$8,674,188 for the annual appropriation of the Water Enterprise fund.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 021A to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**10 028-Community Preservation Committee Annual Appropriation**

Chairman DiFazio reported this item was reviewed by the committee. This is for \$719,749 for the annual appropriation of the Community Preservation Committee.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 028 to the full Town



Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**Issue-Capital Improvement Plan for 2011-2015**

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward the Capital Improvement Plan for FY2011-2015 to the full Town Council with a recommendation to accept the plan and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**Adjournment**

There was a brief discussion of scheduling of the next meeting, an additional special Town Council meeting to be held on June 22, 2010 as well as a request by the Weymouth Teachers Association that the proposed Resolution be withdrawn.

At 8:50 PM, there being no further business, Councilor O'Connor made a MOTION to ADJOURN the meeting and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.