

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
December 6, 2010 - Monday**

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

Also Present: Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
Franklin Fryer, Town Clerk
Paul Haley, Chairman, Board of Assessors
Pamela Pantermoller, Principal Assessor

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

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

A Motion was made by Councilor Molisse to take item 10 127 through 10 129 out of order and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

10 127- Appointment to the Scholarship Committee-Karen McCaffery

Karen McCaffery was not present. This item was tabled until later in the meeting pending her arrival.

10 128- Appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals as Alternate Member-Robin Moroz

Robin Moroz was introduced to the committee. She reviewed her qualifications as a 19 year resident, and noted her experience in real estate legal issues and expressed her interest in serving the town.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 128 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Smart. Councilors Smart and Molisse noted the importance of site visits as a member of the ZBA. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

10 129- Appointment to the Redevelopment Authority-Ronald Shaw

Ronald Shaw was introduced to the committee. He reviewed his qualifications. He is a three year resident of the town.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Molisse to forward item 10 129 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

10 125-Tax Classification

Paul Haley, Chairman of the Board of Assessors, and Pamela Pantermoller, Principal Assessor, appeared before the committee. They noted the presence of the other Board members Kevin Spellman and Jack Sheehan. Mr. Haley noted that Weymouth has just completed a re-evaluation. The board has fairly and uniformly valued all property, using trends to justify the numbers. On November 16, 2010, the preliminary certification was received and the values were posted for 5 days as required by the DOR. (During this report, at 6:45 PM, Councilor O'Connor arrived.) The board received final certification on November 30, 2010. On November 22, 2010, the board met and reviewed the data, and recommended a shift in the tax burden. This has been common since the late 1990's. The shift last year was 50%. This year the board recommends a 50% shift, which is the maximum allowed.

Mr. Haley reviewed the average property tax bills with a shift at different percentages and provided the committee with a handout. There has been some new growth, mainly utilities that operate in the town resulting in an additional tax levy of \$730,000. With the tax shift, the residential tax rate will increase from \$11.09 to \$11.70 per thousand, which is still lowest of all surrounding towns. There has also been a slight (3%) decrease in property values. Property values were set as of January 1, 2010. He also reviewed the appeal process to homeowners disputing their evaluations.

There was a brief discussion with the committee and Auditor Swanson's review of the data provided by the board.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 125 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action, pending a favorable public hearing, and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

10 127- Appointment to the Scholarship Committee-Karen McCaffery

Karen McCaffery did not arrive as requested. Chairman DiFazio noted her qualifications were provided with her letter of interest.

A MOTION was made by Councilor O'Connor to forward item 10 127 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Adjournment

At 7:15 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 Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Chairman Kenneth DiFazio

