

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
December 20, 2010**

Present: Kenneth DiFazio, Chairperson
Arthur Mathews
Michael Smart

Not present: Patrick O'Connor
Michael Molisse

Also Present: Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
Michael Gallagher, Director of Admin. & Comm. Svcs
Scott Bois, Coordinator of Financial Services
Chief Grimes-Police Department
Captain Comperchio-Police Department
Robert O'Connor, Director of Public Works

Recording Secretary: Diane T. Hachey

Chairman Kenneth DiFazio called the Budget/Management Committee meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

10 131-Police Department Telecommunicators-Fiscal Year 2011 Retroactive Payroll

Mr. Gallagher presented on behalf of the Mayor's Office and is requesting that \$17,500 be reappropriated from the reserve fund to the police department salary line item to fund a fiscal year 2011 retroactive payroll increase in accord with the collective bargaining agreement for the police telecommunicators. He noted that this request is over the course of four years—for fiscal years 2008 and 2009 there is a 0% increase, with fiscal years 2010 and 2011 averaging less than 1 % per year—totalling 6%.

Chief Grimes confirmed that his budget can sustain this increase going forward, resultant from retirements.

Mr. Swanson reviewed the measure and is in agreement that there are sufficient funds available.

Chairman DiFazio asked if any layoffs would be needed in order to fund this increase. Both the Chief and Mr. Gallagher confirmed that no layoffs would occur.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Mathews for favorable action on item number 10 131 and was seconded by Councilor Smart and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

10 132-Fiscal Year 2011 Snow Removal Additional Appropriation

Mr. Gallagher presented on behalf of the Mayor's Office and requests that \$500,000 is raised and appropriated from fee cash for the purpose of supplementing the fiscal year 2011 snow removal budget—resultant from an anticipated shortfall. It was further noted that the balance in free cash as of this request is \$2.4 million and has been certified by DOR.

This same action was taken last year and since it worked so well, the Mayor is advocating for it again this year. The balance in the snow removal fund (after approval of this measure) will be \$825k-- which in terms of past history, fairs well as we expended \$844k last snow year.

Mr. Swanson reviewed the details of this measure and agrees with administration and suggests that the committee vote favorably.

Chairman DiFazio asked for a breakdown by department of the certified balance in free cash. Mr. Bois responded that the certified free cash amount is derived from a calculation at fiscal year end and the balance is not designated by department. Unexpended budget funds or excess revenue received throughout the year becomes part of the equation and is not earmarked for future use.

Councilor Mathews asked to which account funding resultant from the host community agreement for SSTTDC is being deposited. Mr. Bois confirmed that the monies are posted as general revenue in the general fund and are included in the calculation of free cash at fiscal year end.

Chairman DiFazio noted the recent receipt of funding in the amount of approximately \$58k and Mr. Bois confirmed that revenue was received and was posted as Fiscal year 2011 general fund revenue. This as with all revenue received during fiscal year 2011 will be included in the free cash calculation. Mr. Bois reminded the committee that these monies are ultimately subject to expenditure approval by the Town Council.

Councilor Mathews suggested that Budget/Management address this issue as he recollects that in 2005 the Town Council voted on a list of capital projects to be earmarked from funding from the host community agreement. Chairman DiFazio confers and requested from administration the detail in terms of deposit dates and amounts.

Chairman DiFazio requested that Robert O'Connor discuss payment to contractors by the inch of snow versus an hourly rate, as raised by a constituent.

Mr. O'Connor stated that his department is constantly evaluating potentially better ways to complete their workload and has investigated this matter, as Quincy has enacted this payment type for part of the city for a portion of the year. He is in communication with

them in order to determine if this is feasible for the town of Weymouth. It was noted that in comparison to Quincy, we are paying less by expending by the hour versus the inch of snow.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Mathews for favorable action on items number 10 132 , and was seconded by Councilor Smart and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Adjournment

At 6:45M, there being no further business to conduct, Councilor Mathews made a MOTION to ADJOURN the meeting, seconded by Councilor Smart and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by Diane T. Hachey as Recording Secretary

Approved by: Kenneth DiFazio as Chairman