

TOWN COUNCIL
Budget Management Committee
March 8, 2005

Present: Ken DiFazio, Chairperson, Sue Kay, Paul Leary, Colin McPherson
Michael Molisse

Also Present: Arthur Mathews
Richard Swanson, Auditor
Jane Hackett, Chief of Staff
Robert Leary, Fire Chief
Daniel MacCormack

Recording Secretary: Janet Murray

Chairperson DiFazio called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

05 016 – Appointment – Board of Zoning Appeals – Charles Golden

A MOTION was made by Councilor Kay to TAKE OUT OF ORDER Item #05 016 and was seconded by Councilor Leary and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

There is a vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals due to the resignation of Stanley Elkerton.

Charles Golden appeared before the Committee. He stated that he has been a resident of Weymouth for the past 34 years. He is now retired and has time to devote to civic activities.

Councilor Kay asked Mr. Golden if he had any background in zoning. Mr. Golden stated that he did not, but was aware of happenings in town, and would like to contribute.

Councilor Leary questioned Mr. Golden about being able to withstand pressure from others over controversial issues. Mr. Golden replied that he is not easily swayed by other's opinions and it would be his intention to review all materials submitted and make an informed decision.

Councilor Mathews asked if Mr. Golden is an engineer. Mr. Golden stated that he is not. Councilor Mathews expressed concern as he believes that with Mr. Elkerton's resignation, there is no engineer on the Board. He also believes that an engineer is required to fill one of the positions.

Councilor Kay asked to see the applications for all who applied for this vacancy.

Councilor McPherson stated that he believes an engineer is necessary on the Board.

Councilor DiFazio stated that he believes that an alternate for the Board should be prepared to step up to fill a vacancy when one comes open.

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Ms. Hackett agreed to obtain the information requested regarding the need for an engineer on the Board and to provide copies of the submitted applications for the vacancy.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Kay to TABLE Item #05 016 and was seconded by Councilor McPherson and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

05 023 – Reappropriation Request – Fire Department Overtime - \$75,000

A MOTION was made by Councilor Kay to TAKE OUT OF ORDER Item #05 023 and was seconded by Councilor Leary and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

This is a request for additional funds to cover overtime in the Fire Department. Chief Leary stated that six new recruits are expected to be on the job by the end of March.

It was noted that cost drivers for overtime are from sick, vacation, personal, and emergency leave. Chief Leary noted that he does not see any one particular area as the root of the problem.

Councilor Mathews noted that the snow removal deficit is approximately \$1 million. He asked if the town would receive funding from FEMA. Mr. Wilson stated that until such time that the funding is in the town's accounts, it can not be counted.

The budget for eight months was \$245,000. When you include overtime, this amount is doubled. There are still four months left in the fiscal year. It was noted that 1/3 of lost shifts require overtime, at approximately \$35/hour.

Councilor Kay was concerned that a fire station would be closed. It was noted that the town would go to three engines and two ladders as soon as the ladder truck is refurbished. Three engines and two ladders require 18 employees, and four engines and one ladder require 20 employees. Mr. Wilson stated that the retirement fund is fully funded. Administration is very concerned about funding this account. However, it was noted that a \$9400 a week in savings will be realized once the six recruits complete their training. Councilor Kay stated that she is concerned that the fire department account is chronically under funded.

Councilor McPherson asked for clarification on injury leave. Chief Leary noted that 11 out of 109 employees are out on leave. Approximately half are on short term leave and the other half is on long term leave. Three of the employees have put in papers to retire. Two of the employees have cancer and are receiving chemotherapy.

Councilor Kay questioned if the town had been reimbursed the \$21,000 from costs incurred due to the Democratic National Convention (DNC). Chief Leary stated that the town had not, and that he had spoken to fire chiefs in other towns, and they had not received it either.

Item #05 012 was a previous measure to re-appropriate \$25,000 towards the Fire Department's overtime deficit. The total amount requested for overtime is \$100,000. Councilor DiFazio asked

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if this presentation is the plan to manage the Fire Department overtime. Councilor Kay asked for the plan in writing. Ms. Hackett stated that this item is the plan and that it would be provided in writing.

Councilor Kay asked for clarification as to whether Mayor Madden was in favor of this item. Ms. Hackett stated that he is in favor of Item #05 023.

A MOTION was made by Councilor McPherson to recommend FAVORABLE ACTION on Item #05 023 and was seconded by Councilor Leary and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

05 015 – Reappointment – Construction Steering Committee – Shawn Malloy

A MOTION was made by Councilor Kay to recommend FAVORABLE ACTION on Item #05 015 and was seconded by Councilor Leary and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

05 017 – Reappointment – Board of Zoning Appeals – Sandra Carle (alternate)

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to recommend FAVORABLE ACTION on Item #05 017 and was seconded by Councilor Kay and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

05 018 – Reappointment – Board of Zoning Appeals – Kemal Denizkurt (alternate)

A MOTION was made by Councilor Kay to recommend FAVORABLE ACTION on Item #05 018 and was seconded by Councilor Leary and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

05 019 – Appointment – Historical Commission – Thomas Curtis

Mr. Curtis will be requested to appear before the Town Council.

Councilor Kay asked if there had been any other applicant for this position. Ms. Hackett stated that there were not.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Kay to recommend FAVORABLE ACTION on Item #05 019 and was seconded by Councilor Leary and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

05 020 – Appointment – Board of Library Trustees – William Westland

Mr. Westland will be requested to appear before the Town Council.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to recommend FAVORABLE ACTION on Item #05 020 and was seconded by Councilor Molisse and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

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05 021 – Appointment – Commission on Disabilities – Paula Damigella

Ms. Damigella will be requested to appear before the Town Council.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Kay to recommend FAVORABLE ACTION on Item #05 021 and was seconded by Councilor Molisse and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

05 022 – Appointment – Commission on Disabilities – Deb Deveau

Ms. Deveau will be requested to appear before the Town Council.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Kay to recommend FAVORABLE ACTION on Item #05 022 and was seconded by Councilor Leary and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

04 216 – TIF Review and Analysis

Discussion centered on the three businesses that currently occupy space in Libbey Industrial Park thru Campanelli Company- Sovereign Bank, Sampson Insurance, and Sager Electric.

Abington Savings Bank, now doing business as Sovereign Bank, received a tax incentive, in Item #02 138, with the agreement that their employment level would reach 205. Their present employment level is 17. At the time of the hearing in 2002, the employment level was 19. It was also noted that the form required by the state for TIF recipients was not filed as of 12/31/04.

Sampson Insurance received a tax incentive, in Item #02 139, with the agreement that their employment level would reach 19. Their present level is 19, with three of those employees living in Weymouth. At the time of the hearing in 2002, the employment level was 16. It was noted that the representative from Sampson Insurance indicated that the company had no intention of hiring any new employees in the foreseeable future.

Sager Electric received a tax incentive, in Item #02 137, with the agreement that their employment level would reach 99, with three of those employees living in Weymouth. At the time of the hearing 2002, the employment level was 71. The representative from Sager noted that the company does see possible hiring in the near future.

The landlord for the businesses is Campanelli. - Richard Swanson noted that the landlord does not see benefit from the TIF. If these companies are de-certified, the process would have to be started over.

The next meeting of the state EACC will be on 3/29/05. The letter from the Town Council, signed by the Council President, needs to be submitted by 3/15/05 in order to get on the agenda for the meeting on the 29th.

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Councilor Leary stated that the case is clear cut, the companies are not in compliance with the TIF agreement.

Councilor McPherson made a MOTION to SPLIT the measures into three individual measures and was seconded by Councilor Kay and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Councilor McPherson made a MOTION to DE-CERTIFY Sovereign Bank's TIF agreement (Item #02 138) and was seconded by Councilor Leary and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Councilor Leary made a MOTION to DE-CERTIFY Sager Electric's TIF agreement (Item #02 137) and was seconded by Councilor Kay and was APPROVED on a 4-1 vote with Councilors Kay, Leary, DiFazio, and Molisse, and Councilor McPherson voting in opposition.

Councilor Leary made a MOTION to DE-CERTIFY Sampson Insurance's TIF agreement (Item #02 139) and was seconded by Councilor Kay and was APPROVED on a 4-1 vote with Councilors Kay, Leary, DiFazio, and Molisse, and Councilor McPherson voting in opposition.

Ms. Hackett noted that the dec-ertification process is under the purview of the Council. The Mayor's signature is not required. A certified copy of the vote is needed.

Councilor DiFazio noted that the letter to the EACC requesting that these three companies be de-certified be put on the 3/29/05 agenda will be sent. The Council will need to contact the agency on the 22nd of March to confirm that the Council voted affirmatively on these items.

ISSUE FOR DISCUSSION

Review of Town Auditor Employment Contract

Councilor Kay made a MOTION to TABLE this item for discussion and was seconded by Councilor Leary and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:30pm there being no further business, A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Kay and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Approved by: _____
Kenneth DiFazio, Chairperson