

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
Town Hall Council Chambers
January 5, 2009

Present: Michael Smart, President
Arthur Mathews, Vice President
Robert Conlon, Councilor
Kenneth DiFazio, Councilor
Ed Harrington, Councilor
Thomas J. Lacey, Councilor
Brian McDonald, Councilor
Michael Molisse, Councilor
Patrick O'Connor, Councilor
Victor Pap, III, Councilor
Kevin Whitaker, Councilor

Not Present: George Lane, Town Solicitor
Franklin Fryer, Town Clerk
James Wilson, Chief Financial Officer

Also Present: Maureen Duffy, Auditor
Kathy Deree, Assistant Town Clerk
Michael Gallagher, Director of Administrative Services

Recording Secretary: Diane T. Hachey

President Smart called the Town Council Meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Assistant Town Clerk, Kathy Deree conducted the roll call with all members present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Molisse reported that the Frozen Wildcats event, which took place on New Years was a success. 100 people participated in the event with over 250 spectators. Our own Councilor Lacey took the icy plunge, with water temperatures at 38 degrees. In excess of \$10,000 was raised towards the Strengthening and Conditioning Program at Weymouth High School.

Additionally, scholarships were awarded to the following recipients: Barrett Jacobs, Shawn Holt, William Harris, Jake Harrison, Frank Hoyt, and Christine Chandler.

Councilor Harrington announced that a fundraising event will take place on Friday, January 16, 2009 in honor of Nicole Fox who has been diagnosed with cancer. John and Nicole Fox are both active members of the Forest Street Neighborhood Association. The event will be held at the Elk's and commences at 7:30 PM--tickets are available at the

door. Councilor Harrington asked that all lend support for this worthwhile cause.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A MOTION was made by Councilor Mathews to ACCEPT the minutes of the Budget/Management Committee meeting of December 1, 2008 and was seconded by Councilor O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Mathews to ACCEPT the minutes of the Public Works Committee Meeting of December 1, 2008 and was seconded by Councilor O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Mathews to ACCEPT the minutes of the Town Council Meeting of December 1, 2008 and was seconded by Councilor O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Mathews to ACCEPT the minutes of the Budget/Management Committee Meeting of December 15, 2008 and was seconded by Councilor O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Mathews to ACCEPT the minutes of the Town Council Meeting of December 15, 2008 and was seconded by Councilor O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

RESIDENT AND COMMUNITY COMMENT

Snow and Ice Removal Protocol
-Gibson Midgley of 39 Emerson Street

Mr. Midgley reported that plowing efforts on his dead-end street have been a recurring problem for numerous years. The condition of the street has been left in impassable condition and he is concerned with emergency vehicles not being able to access homes. Calls to the Department of Public Works, Mayor's Office and the Town Council Office have resulted in effective clean-up. He noted that both a fire truck and garbage truck have been stuck on Emerson Street. Further Mr. Midgley suggests the Department of Public Works, Public Works Committee and Public Safety Committees work in tandem to address this public safety issue.

Council President Smart noted that he contacted Robert O'Connor, Director of Public Works, and confirmed that Weymouth has in excess of 200 miles of roadways to maintain with 20 town vehicles and 40 private contractors. He felt that this storm was unique in that both the amounts and time that snow fell were exorbitant. He assured Mr. Midgley that he will alert Mr. O'Connor to be more cognizant of the smaller streets in town during snow storms. Additionally, Council President Smart noted that there are many "no salt zones" in town which prohibit use of salt, which further adds to the

problem.

Councilor Mathews noted that he is in agreement with Council President Smart in that these series of storms were not the norm. The protocol should be that the proper plowing equipment should be used for each job. He suggests ensuring that four-wheel vehicles are sent to areas such as Emerson which require such. Going forward, Councilor Mathews is confident that we will work together to resolve these issues and extended his gratitude to Mr. Midgley for raising this issue.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR, TOWN OFFICERS AND TOWN BOARDS

09 001-Authorization to Over Expend for Snow Removal

Michael Gallagher presented on behalf of the Mayor's Office and requests authorization that in accord with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 31D, that the Town Council authorizes the Department of Public Works, with the approval of the Mayor, to over expend any and all line items (program 0620) associated with snow removal.

Councilor Mathews motioned for referral of measure number 09 001 to the Budget/Management Committee, motioned seconded by Councilor O'Connor and unanimously voted.

09 002-Snow Removal-Reserve Fund Transfer

Michael Gallagher presented on behalf of the Mayor's Office and requests the transfer of the sum of \$150,000 from the reserve fund to the following line numbers for the purpose of funding the FY 2009 costs associated with departmental expenses:

14104220.513001 Snow Removal Overtime for \$25,000
14104420.553508 Snow Removal Expenses for \$75,000
14104420.553501 Salt and Sand Expenses for \$50,000

Mr. Gallagher further noted that the balance in the reserve fund at the time of submittal of this measure is \$547,939.

Councilor Mathews motioned for referral of measure number 09 002 to the Budget/Management Committee, motioned seconded by Councilor O'Connor and unanimously voted.

09 003-Reserve Fund Transfer-Tax Title Costs

Mr. Gallagher presented on behalf of the Mayor's Office and requests that the Town of Weymouth transfer \$15,000 from the reserve fund to fund 002 in order to pay for the legal and related expenses for tax foreclosures and tax title takings. The balance in the reserve fund at the time of this submittal is \$547,939.

Councilor Mathews motioned for referral of measure number 09 003 to the Budget/Management Committee, motioned seconded by Councilor O'Connor and unanimously voted.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:00 PM, there being no further business to conduct, a MOTION was made by Councilor Mathews to ADJOURN, seconded by Councilor O'Connor and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by: Diane T. Hachey

Approved by:

Michael Smart-Town Council President