

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
Town Hall Council Chambers
April 6, 2009

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

Also Present: Franklin Fryer, Town Clerk
Maureen Duffy, Town Auditor
George Lane, Town Solicitor
Mayor Susan Kay
Michael Gallagher, Director of Admin and Community Services
James Wilson, Chief Financial Officer

Recording Secretary: Diane T. Hachey

President Smart called the Town Council Meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Town Clerk Franklin Fryer called the roll with all members present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Lacey presented a Citation, which he read on behalf of the Town Council, to Ju Ju Atwater, recognizing her athletic and scholastic abilities. Ju Ju is a junior at Christian Academy and as a varsity basketball player has attained in excess of 1,302 baskets.

Councilor Mathews announced that the Conservation Commission has scheduled a meeting for April 8th at 7:30 at the McCulloch Building and will be discussing the Alexan project. The public hearing had previously been closed.

Councilor DiFazio announced that the EWNA will host a "Taste of Weymouth" at the Elks on April 23 from 6:30-8:30 PM. Cost is \$5.00 per person, with those under 12 admitted for free. Donations of non-perishable food items are welcome to support the Weymouth Food Pantry. Various restaurants in town will be on hand to provide samples of their menu items.

Councilor Harrington announced that the Weymouth Rotary is holding a raffle for a 2009 Mercedes with tickets at \$100.00 each. Additionally, he noted that there will be a Relay for Life Meeting for captains at the Tufts Library on April 21, 2009.

MINUTES

Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2009

A MOTION was made by Councilor Mathews to accept the minutes of the Economic Development Committee meeting of March 16, 2009. Councilor Pap made a substitute motion to strike the word “collate” and replace it with “collect” (line 5 of the minutes), substitute motion seconded by Councilor O’Connor and unanimously voted.

Town Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2009

A MOTION was made by Councilor Mathews to accept the minutes of the Town Council meeting of March 16, 2009 and was seconded by Councilor O’Connor and unanimously voted.

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

Presentation of Budget for Fiscal Year 2010

-Mayor Susan Kay and James Wilson

Mayor Kay noted that she is submitting a balanced budget this evening. The town was informed on January 28 that cuts in state aid for this and next fiscal year will occur. For this fiscal year we will incur a reduction in local aid of \$1,057,525, fortunately we will survive this impact by utilization of the funds from the sale of the Fulton School.

Fiscal year 2010 presents a challenge as there are no cuts to school aid ,but general government will experience cuts of 3.6 million which equates to a 9 percent decrease. The Mayor has been planning since October of 2008 for these impacts. Her philosophy is that the town should live within its means. Successful negotiations with health insurance coverage freed up 2 million dollars and lessens the impact of loss in state aid. The total 2010 budget appropriation is \$127,872,126 , which is a decrease of 3 million from Fiscal year 2009.

The Mayor’s highlights of her fiscal year 2010 budget presentation entitled “A Time of Challenge” are as follows:

Issues to be defined include the finalized federal stimulus package, snow removal deficit for fiscal 2009 and the negotiation of numerous outstanding collective bargaining agreements.

The economy effect on local government are as follows: \$1.5 million in lottery/state aid in Fiscal Year 2009, \$3.1 million in lottery/state aid for Fiscal Year 2010; reimbursements from the state total a reduction of \$3.84 million in revenues.

Perception of limitless cash reserves: comparison from Fiscal Year 2004 to 2009 indicates a decrease in free cash from \$2.7 million to \$1,080,000; and \$3.3 million to \$900,00 in the stabilization fund.

Budget philosophy-the Mayor's goal is to bring expenditures in line with recurring revenue, implementation of the GIC health insurance program, maintain current employees and Police and Fire staffing levels, in addition to funding the snow removal deficit.

Revenue projections: The town will lose \$3.8 million in state aid reductions, and \$500,000 less in investment income.

General Government Budget Overview: This year's proposed budget is \$1.4 million less than the fiscal year 2009 budget allocation. Three town department budgets are being submitted below level funding (Town Council Office, Mayor's Office and Municipal Finance). Three town department budgets are being submitted above level funding (Police, Fire and Veteran's Services).

Fiscal Year 2010 Proposed Budget: The submitted budget includes all fixed costs, step increases and contractual increases. The school department budget is uncertain at this time resultant from finalization of state and federal requirements. General government will experience non-funding of 3 vacant positions, and reduction in hours for 4 employees. The Mayor stated that all staff employed in 2009 will continue employment in 2010.

Mayor Kay noted that **other budgetary considerations** are a \$370,000 snow removal deficit and a cost savings to the town of \$2.4 million upon joining the GIC program.

Results were cited accordingly: The budget submitted is balanced, has impacts on town delivery of services and does not include an increase in the rubbish removal fee as the Mayor does not recommend this course of action due to the hardships constituents are currently experiencing. The Mayor is recommending a drug enforcement initiative which involves hiring a police officer dedicated to this initiative. The summer programs will experience slight fee increases and no capital expenditures will occur.

Keys to accomplishing goals include managing expenditures in light of available revenue, town-wide cooperation from town departments and committees, and acknowledgement by constituents of these trying economic times.

Sewer Enterprise Funds-the Sewer Department is level funded and there is no reliance on state rate relief. The Water Department will experience an increase in debt service in order to pay for the GPWTP, resulting in fee increases to accommodate the debt service payment.

Community Preservation Committee-will experience s \$250,00 decrease resultant from a reduction in the match by the state. Historically CPC funds were matched 100% in

Fiscal Year 2008, 70% in 2009 and is projected to be 30% in 2010. The Mayor noted a single reserves expenditures for the Fogg Library totaling \$220,00.

Implementation Strategy: This budget takes a unified approach from all departments. There is the unknown from the federal and state stimulus package. The Mayor noted a supplemental budget submission sometime during the summer, once we have received DOR finalized figures.

The Mayor closed her presentation requesting the Council's support of her proposed budget for fiscal year 2010.

Mr. Wilson approached the Council in order to refer the following measures:

09 015-General Government Annual Appropriation
(Segregated According to Department and Coded A-CC).

Mr. Wilson noted that the total appropriation is \$127,872,126 and encompasses all expenses for the operation of the town.

A MOTION was made to refer item 09 015 to the Budget/Management Committee by Councilor Mathews and seconded by Councilor O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

09 016-Fire Department Overtime-Reserve Fund Transfer and Re-appropriation

Mr. Wilson explained that a transfer of \$80,000 is being requested in order to cover overtime expenses incurred by the Fire Department.

A MOTION was made to refer item 09 016 to the Budget/Management Committee by Councilor Mathews and seconded by Councilor O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

09 017- Re-appropriation for Fuel for Town Owned Vehicles

Mr. Wilson noted that this measure requests reappropriation of \$120,000 to cover increased gasoline usage by town-owned vehicles.

A MOTION was made to refer item 09 017 to the Budget/Management Committee by Councilor Mathews and seconded by Councilor O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

09 018- Re-appropriation for Street Lights-Department of Public Works

Mr. Wilson is requesting reappropriation of \$80,000 to cover additional funding required to complete this fiscal year.

A MOTION was made to refer item 09 018 to the Budget/Management Committee by Councilor Mathews and seconded by Councilor O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

09 019-Drug Free Program

Mr. Wilson noted that this measure requests transferring of \$11,000 for the purpose of funding the salary of the Community Health Program Coordinator.

A MOTION was made to refer item 09 019 to the Budget/Management Committee by Councilor Mathews and seconded by Councilor O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

09 020- Snow Removal-Reserve Fund Transfer

Mr. Wilson noted that a transfer of \$290,000 is requested for the purpose of funding costs from fiscal year 2009 as related to snow removal.

A MOTION was made to refer item 09 020 to the Budget/Management Committee by Councilor Mathews and seconded by Councilor O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

09 021- Snow Removal-Free Cash Appropriation

It was noted that a transfer of \$150,000 is requested in order that costs associated with department expenses for fiscal year 2009 are covered.

A MOTION was made to refer item 09 021 to the Budget/Management Committee by Councilor Mathews and seconded by Councilor O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**09 022-Proposed Ordinance-Compliance with Chapter 465 PF The Act Of 2008
(Parking Fines)**

This measure involves amending Chapter 13 of the code of ordinances in order to provide provisions for bus stop parking fines. A MOTION was made by Councilor Mathews for referral to the Ordinance Committee. A discussion ensued as to whether a referral to Budget/Management would be necessary. Solicitor Lane was consulted and will advise the committee should a Budget referral be necessary. The referral to the Ordinance Committee was seconded by Councilor O'Connor and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

09 023- Ordinance Amendment-Amnesty Program

Mr. Wilson explained that this measure involves an amendment to Chapter 13 of the code of ordinances and requests extension of the tax amnesty program from June 2009 to June 2010. This program has worked well in the past and administration wishes to extend the deadline accordingly.

A MOTION was made to refer item 09 023 to the Ordinance Committee by Councilor Mathews ,seconded by Councilor O'Connor and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

09 024-Gift Accounts Annual Authorization

This measure requests the creation of numerous revolving accounts for fiscal 2010 in order to accept donations accordingly.

A MOTION was made to refer item 09 024 to the Budget/Management Committee by Councilor Mathews and seconded by Councilor O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

09 025-Acceptance of Scholarship Funds-Weymouth High School Athletic Council

Mr. Wilson explained that on behalf of the School Committee this measure is requesting authorization and creation of a Weymouth High School Athletic Council Scholarship Fund in order to accept a pending donation.

A MOTION was made to refer item 09 025 to the Budget/Management Committee by Councilor Mathews and seconded by Councilor O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

09 026- Acceptance of Scholarship Funds-Bernard B. and Mary K. Merten Family Scholarship Fund

This measure is requesting the aforementioned naming of a scholarship fund in order to accept the proceeds from donated policies. Mr. Wilson noted that there are restrictions involved.

A MOTION was made to refer item 09 026 to the Budget/Management Committee by Councilor Mathews and seconded by Councilor O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

09 027-Revolving Accounts Annual Authorization

This measure is in request of creation of numerous revolving accounts for Parks and Recreation.

A MOTION was made to refer item 09 027 to the Budget/Management Committee by Councilor Mathews and seconded by Councilor O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

09 028-Sewer Enterprise Fund Annual Appropriation

Mr. Wilson explained that this is a request to raise and appropriate in the amount of \$13,573,262 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund in order to cover expenses for fiscal year 2010 for the Sewer Department Enterprise Fund.

A MOTION was made to refer item 09 28 to the Budget/Management Committee by Councilor Mathews and seconded by Councilor O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

09 029-Sewer Division-Capital Expenditures-CP Residual

This measure is requesting transfer of \$175,000 from the Sewer Capital Projects Residual Fund in order to fund numerous capital improvement projects.

A MOTION was made to refer item 09 029 to the Budget/Management Committee by Councilor Mathews and seconded by Councilor O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

09 030-Sewer Division-Capital Expenditures-Retained Earnings

Mr. Wilson requests that \$250,000 is transferred from the Sewer Retained Earnings for the purpose of funding Capital improvement projects.

A MOTION was made to refer item 09 030 to the Budget/Management Committee by Councilor Mathews and seconded by Councilor O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

09 031-Water Enterprise Fund Annual Appropriation

This measure requests appropriation of \$8,764,342 from the Water Enterprise Fund for expenses incurred during fiscal 2010 for the Water Department.

A MOTION was made to refer item 09 031 to the Budget/Management Committee by

Councilor Mathews and seconded by Councilor O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

09 032- Water Treatment Plant Chemicals-Reserve Fund Transfer

Mr. Wilson is requesting the transfer of \$200,000 from the Reserve Fund to the water treatment chemicals line item.

A MOTION was made to refer item 09 032 to the Budget/Management Committee by Councilor Mathews and seconded by Councilor O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

09 033- Water Treatment Plant Electricity-Reserve Fund Transfer

This measure requests transfer of \$50,000 from the Reserve Fund to the water treatment electricity account.

A MOTION was made to refer item 09 033 to the Budget/Management Committee by Councilor Mathews and seconded by Councilor O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

09 034-Water Division-Capital Expenditures-CP Residual

Mr. Wilson requests a transfer in the amount of \$127,000 in order to fund numerous capital projects.

A MOTION was made to refer item 09 034 to the Budget/Management Committee by Councilor Mathews and seconded by Councilor O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

09 035- Capital Request-Bond Authorization-Route 18 Water Mains Project

This request represents an appropriation in the amount of \$1,100,000 for the purpose of construction/oversight/repair to Route 18 water mains.

A MOTION was made to refer item 09 035 to the Budget/Management Committee by Councilor Mathews and seconded by Councilor O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

09 036-Community Preservation Committee Annual Appropriation

This measure requests approval of the report of the Community Preservation Committee budget appropriation in the amount of \$699,814.

A MOTION was made to refer item 09 036 to the Budget/Management Committee by Councilor Mathews and seconded by Councilor O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

(non budget related measures)

09 037-Front Street Peak Hour Parking Restrictions

This measure requests approval of an ordinance change to section 13-102 (designation of parking prohibitions and restrictions) on Front Street.

A MOTION was made to refer item 09 037 to the Public Safety Committee by Councilor Mathews .Councilor O'Connor noted that this measure was a product of the Public Safety Committee. Councilor Mathews therefore amended his motion to refer measure to the

Ordinance Committee, seconded by Councilor O'Connor and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

09 039-Stop Signs on Front Street at Federal Street

Mr. Wilson noted that an amendment to the town ordinances (Chapter 13-Section 13-103) regarding placement of stop signs on Front at Federal Street is being requested.

A MOTION was made to refer item 09 039 to the Ordinance Committee by Councilor Mathews and seconded by Councilor O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Budget/Management Committee-Chairman Ken DiFazio

09 010-CDBG and Home Approvals for 2008-2009

Chairman DiFazio noted that this item was referred on 3/16/09, the committee met on 4/6/09 and voted unanimous favorable action. Chairman DiFazio motioned for favorable action on item number 09 010, seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

09 009-O'Connor and Drew Fiscal Year 2008 Financials and Management Letter

Chairman DiFazio noted that this item was referred on 2/17/09, the committee met on 4/6/09 and voted unanimous favorable action. Chairman DiFazio motioned for favorable action regarding accepting the aforementioned reports, seconded by Councilor Molisse and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

09 011-Abigail Adams Closeout Costs

Chairman DiFazio reported that this item was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on 3/16/09, the committee met on 4/6/09 and voted unanimous favorable action. Chairman DiFazio motioned for favorable action on measure number 09 011, seconded by Councilor Mathews, and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

09 012-Town Council Re-Appropriation

Chairman DiFazio reports that this item was referred on 3/16/09, the committee met on 4/6/09 and voted unanimous favorable action. Chairman DiFazio motioned for favorable action on item number 09 012, seconded by Councilor Mathews, and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

09 013-Reserve Fund Transfer—Veteran Benefits

Chairman DiFazio noted that this item was referred on 3/16/09, the committee met on 4/6/09 and voted unanimous favorable action. Chairman DiFazio motioned for favorable action on item number 09 013, seconded by Councilor Mathews, and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:20 PM, there being no further business, a MOTION to adjourn was made by Councilor Mathews and seconded by Councilor O'Connor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully Submitted by Diane T. Hachey-Recording Secretary

Approved by

Michael Smart-Council President