

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
PURSUANT TO SECTION 6-6A OF THE TOWN CHARTER

ABIGAIL ADAMS AUDITORIUM
MONDAY, MAY 8, 2006 at 7:30 PM

Present: Michael Smart, President
Paul J. Leary, Vice-President
Kenneth DiFazio
Thomas J. Lacey
Arthur Mathews
Michael Molisse
Patrick O'Connor
Gregory Shanahan

Not Present: Sue Kay
Kevin Whitaker

Also Present: Franklin Fryer, Town Clerk
Jane Hackett, Chief of Staff
George Lane, Town Solicitor
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
James Wilson, Chief Financial Officer

School Committee
Members Present: Sean Guilfoyle, Chairperson
Diane Oliverio, Secretary
Diana Flemer
James Lockhead
James Parker
Mayor David M. Madden

Not present: Karen Berry, Vice Chairperson

Recording Secretary: Janet Murray

Commencement of meeting by Michael Smart, President of the Weymouth Town Council

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

American Legion & Son's of American Legion Color Guard - Fran Tucci, Veteran's Council

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call conducted by Franklin Fryer, Town Clerk

President Smart stated that Councilors Kay and Whitaker had contacted him to inform him that they would not be in attendance this evening.

Weymouth High School Band *Star Spangled Banner
*Phantom with a Twist

Presentation of Scholarship Awards

- Chairperson Lois Desmond, Scholarship Committee
- Mayor David M. Madden
- Paul J. Leary, Town Council Vice President

Michael Smart, President of the Town Council

- Introduction of Town Council Members

President Smart introduced each Councilor individually and noted that Councilors Kay and Whitaker had informed him that they would not be present this evening.

- Town Council Highlights for Fiscal Year 2006

President Smart stated that the Town Council serves as the legislative branch of the town of Weymouth. He noted that in FY 06, for the first time in Weymouth's history, a clean audit report was earned by the town. He also noted that in 2005 the Reuse Plan for the South Weymouth Naval Air Station was approved after 28 months of meetings and public hearings. President Smart highlighted a number of other issues which were dealt with during FY 06.

Sean Guilfoyle, Chairperson of the School Committee

- Introduction of School Committee Members

Mr. Guilfoyle introduced each School Committee member individually. He noted that Karen Berry was not able to be present this evening.

Public Hearings

06 036-Operating Measure-Authorization for Use of Overlay Account Funds

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to OPEN the Public Hearing on Item #06 036 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

This Item was published on 4/28/06.

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A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to CLOSE the Public Hearing on Item #06 036 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

06 037-Police Detail Account-Authorization to Use Funds for Fiscal Year 2007

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to OPEN the Public Hearing on Item #06 037 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

This Item was published on 04/28/06.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to CLOSE the Public Hearing on Item #06 037 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

06 038-Sale of Town Owned Property-Authorization to Use Funds for Fiscal Year 2007

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to OPEN the Public Hearing on Item #06 038 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

This Item was published on 04/28/06.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to CLOSE the Public Hearing on Item #06 038 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

06 039-Operating Measure-General Fund Appropriation Request Fiscal Year 2007 Annual Budget

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to OPEN the Public Hearing on Item #06 039 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

This Item was published on 04/28/06.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to CLOSE the Public Hearing on Item #06 039 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

06 040-Snow Removal Deficit-Free Cash Appropriation

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to OPEN the Public Hearing on Item #06 040 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

This Item was published on 04/28/06.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to CLOSE the Public Hearing on Item #06 040 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

06 041-Donation Accounts-Annual Authorization to Receive Revenue and Expend Funds

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to OPEN the Public Hearing on Item #06 041 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

This Item was published on 04/28/06.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to CLOSE the Public Hearing on Item #06 041 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

06 042-Revolving Accounts-Annual Authorization to Receive Revenue and Expend Funds

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to OPEN the Public Hearing on Item #06 042 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

This Item was published on 04/28/06.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to CLOSE the Public Hearing on Item #06 042 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

06 043-Bond Authorization for Extraordinary Repairs to Town Owned Buildings

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to OPEN the Public Hearing on Item #06 043 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

This Item was published on 04/28/06.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to CLOSE the Public Hearing on Item #06 043 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

06 044-Bond Authorization for Extraordinary Repairs to Town Owned Buildings

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to OPEN the Public Hearing on Item #06 044 and was seconded by Councilor and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

This Item was published on 04/28/06.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to CLOSE the Public Hearing on Item #06 044 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

06 045-Bond Authorization for Extraordinary Repairs to School Buildings

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to OPEN the Public Hearing on Item #06 045 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

This Item was published on 04/28/06.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to CLOSE the Public Hearing on Item #06 045 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

06 046-Operating Measure-Sewer Enterprise Fund Appropriation Order

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to OPEN the Public Hearing on Item #06 046 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

This Item was published on 04/28/06.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to CLOSE the Public Hearing on Item #06 046 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

06 047-Sewer Enterprise Fund-Residual Account

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to OPEN the Public Hearing on Item #06 047 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

This Item was published on 04/28/06.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to CLOSE the Public Hearing on Item #06 047 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

06 048-Water Enterprise Fund-Annual Appropriation

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to OPEN the Public Hearing on Item #06 048 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

This Item was published on 04/28/06.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to CLOSE the Public Hearing on Item #06 048 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

06 049-Water Enterprise Fund-Residual Account

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to OPEN the Public Hearing on Item #06 049 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

This Item was published on 04/28/06.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to CLOSE the Public Hearing on Item #06 049 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**06 050-Water Enterprise Fund-Bond Authorization for Design and Construction for
New Great Pond Water Treatment Plant**

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to OPEN the Public Hearing on Item #06 050 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

This Item was published on 04/28/06.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to CLOSE the Public Hearing on Item #06 050 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Presentation of Fiscal Year 2007 Budget

Mayor David M. Madden and James Wilson, Chief Financial Officer gave a Power Point presentation overview of the FY 07 budget.

The Mayor spoke of his goals and priorities. He stated that it is his intention to maintain current levels of service. He noted that some of the FY 06 items were pre-paid in the FY 05 budget.

The Mayor stated that he had directed Department Heads to include in the FY 06 budget; all raises, as well as expected increases in utility costs. He noted that at the beginning of FY 06 he implemented a hiring freeze on all open positions. All open positions to be filled need to be approved by the Mayor.

Several positions were eliminated; two firefighters, two police officers, two laborers in the Department of Public Works, one staff person in the Collector's Office, and ten positions in the School Department.

All capital requests were evaluated with a focus on building and grounds.

The Mayor noted that the total amount in State aid on which this budget is based is \$26.8 million. The town's total budget is \$121 million. The budget is broken out into fixed costs and operating costs.

Mr. Wilson gave an overview of revenue sources, expenses, and capital improvements.

The Mayor stated that the Town has been unable to put money into the Stabilization Fund.

The Mayor informed those present that \$600,000 in additional State funding will be available and will be used to fund the Superior Officer's contract, the non-union employee contract obligations, and tuition reimbursement. School materials will also be purchased.

The Mayor stated that his priorities are Education and Public Safety, balanced against other needs.

Public Comment

Susan Peters of 834 Commercial Street requested that any additional Chapter 70 monies received by the Town be returned to the School Department Budget. She stated that the final House budget allows for an additional \$600,000, with \$450,000 coming from Chapter 70. She noted that Chapter 70 money is specifically earmarked for education.

Cathy Torrey of 14 Riverbank Road also spoke to the need to return to the School Department, any additional Chapter 70 monies. Mrs. Torrey stated that recent statistics indicate that Weymouth spends 14% less than the surrounding towns of Quincy, Braintree, and Randolph on education. She expressed concerns regarding the increase in sports fees, and the charging of fees for bus ridership. She stated that she is also concerned about students having to pay for a photography course; and questioned if this practice will be used for other courses. She asked that a commitment be made to the public schools.

Kathleen Curran of 15 Babcock Avenue stated that she believes that the Chapter 70 increase should be returned to the schools.

Cathy Torrey read a statement from another parent, **Elizabeth Foster-Nolan**, President of the Town Wide Parent Council. Ms. Foster-Nolan, in her written comments, noted that Weymouth lags behind the state average in per pupil expenditures. She noted that under the current budget required textbooks for students will not be available. Also, sports fees will increase and parents of 7th and 8th graders will now have to pay for transportation. Ms. Foster-Nolan urged the Mayor and Town Council to step up to the plate and show that they do want Weymouth Public Schools to be able to create a supportive learning community which results in high achieving lifelong learners who actively contribute to society. She noted that this is the Weymouth Public School's Mission Statement.

Mayor Madden stated that by spending the \$600,000, this will free up \$400,000 from free cash by paying for FY 07 operating expenses. He stated that the leadership of this town supports education.

Report of Committee

Budget/Management-Chairman DiFazio

06 045-Bond Authorization for Extraordinary Repairs to School Buildings

Councilor DiFazio stated that this item was referred on 04/3/06. The Committee met on 4/25/06 and on 5/8/06

The Committee voted 3-0 to recommend favorable action to the Town Council.

Councilor DiFazio made a MOTION to APPROVE Item #06 045 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Adjournment

At 9:05pm, there being no further business, a MOTION was made by Councilor Mathews to ADJOURN and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Approved by: _____
Michael Smart, President