

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 9, 2005
ABIGAIL ADAMS AUDITORIUM**

PRESENT: Thomas J. Lacey (President), Michael Smart (Vice President), Ken DiFazio, Paul J. Leary, Arthur Mathews, Colin McPherson, Michael Molisse

ABSENT: Joseph Connolly, Gregory Hargadon, Susan Kay, Gregory Shanahan

OTHERS: Franklin Fryer, Richard Swanson, George Lane, Jim Wilson, Jane Hackett, Mayor David M. Madden

RECORDING SECRETARY: Diane T. Hachey

President Lacey called the Annual Town Meeting to order on May 9, 2005 at 7:30 PM at the Abigail Adams Auditorium.

The Weymouth High School Band played the Star Spangled Banner.

Lois Desmond, Councilor Leary, and Mayor Madden presented scholarship awards to more than 35 recipients totaling in excess of \$23,000 in financial aid. Ms. Desmond stated that scholarships were granted to both Weymouth High School students and private school attendees.

The following students were granted scholarships:

Adam Auriemma-\$500-Lincoln Square Service Scholarship
Nicolette Burnham-\$500
Stephen Casey-\$500-Sulo Soini Memorial Scholarship
Michael Conlon-\$500-DeLuze Collision Center Scholarship
Jessica Coyle-\$500-Rebecca Van Orden Memorial Scholarship
Alison Cronin-\$1,000-George H. Player Memorial Scholarship
Meaghan Faraca-\$500-Dunkin Donuts Scholarship
Thomas Harkins-\$500
Michael Jarvis-\$500-Ann Lynch Memorial Scholarship
Elizabeth Keefe-\$500-Rockland Federal Credit Union
Andrew Keegan-\$500-J.F. Price Company Scholarship
Jennifer Kelly-\$1,000-Joseph Dalton Memorial Scholarship
Andrew LeClerc-\$500-Stephen Garvey Memorial Scholarship
Joanna MacIntyre-\$1,000-Connie Passero Memorial Scholarship
Regina MacKenzie-\$500
Lauren Mahoney-\$500-William Lane Jr. Memorial Scholarship
Kristin Mahoney-\$500-J. Philip Spallino Memorial Scholarship

Carissa Marlowe-\$500
Joseph McCarthy-\$500-Coughlin & Co. Real Estate Scholarship
Sandra McCurdy-\$1,000
Lauren McGrath-\$500-Super Shine Auto Wash Scholarship
Elizabeth Mongrello-\$500-William Concannon Scholarship
Diane Murphy-\$500-David Noble Memorial Scholarship
Anne Northridge-\$1,000-William and Florence McGrath Memorial Scholarship
John Oliva-\$500-Michael Murphy Memorial Scholarship
Stacy Powell-\$1,800-Weymouth Club
Caitlin Rogers-\$1,000-Pub 99 Scholarship
Caitlin Shea-\$500-Ruth Sylvester Memorial Scholarship
Jaclyn Snell-\$500-Lions Club Scholarship
Lauren Spink-\$500-Ryder Development Scholarship
Melissa Sullivan-\$1,000-Reino and Gwendolyn Laine Memorial Scholarship
Amanda Szymczuk-\$1,000-Vietnam Memorial Scholarship
John Tilley-\$500-Weymouth Town Taxi Scholarship
Corey Tilton-\$500-Stephen Salvucci Memorial Scholarship
Kevin Tully-\$500-W.G.Bridges and Sons Insurance Agency Scholarship
Mary Tully-\$500-David Noble Memorial Scholarship
Lauren Welch-\$500-Trapani and Associates Inc. Scholarship

President Lacey delivered an update relative to the Town Council activities for the past year:

1-The Council approved over 6 million dollars in water/sewer improvements to the Town of Weymouth

2-Improvements to the Fire/Police Departments included :

- replacement of roofs for Fire Stations 1 and 2

- approval of a petition to the General Court to enact special legislation authorizing the Chief of Police to appoint retired Weymouth Police Officers as Special Police Officers

- approved the funding necessary to replace the police repeater tower , 6 new police cruisers and the hiring of 6 new policemen

- approved a request to hire 4 new firefighters, purchase a new Deputy Fire Chief vehicle and effect repairs to Ladder Truck 1

3-Improvements and funding to the School Department were as follows:

- approved Unit A Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Weymouth Teacher's Association and the School Committee

-approved the funding for a High School Resource Officer and replaced a Special Education Van

4- The Council established an ordinance entitled “Regulations for the Operation of Motor Scooters”-which defines the operator’s rights, exemptions, restrictions, enforcement, violations and penalties regarding the operation of motor scooters.

5-Council approved that the “Community Preservation Act” be placed on the November 8th ballot for the residents to decide. This Act would effect a surcharge on real estate for the purposes of creation and preservation of open space as related to historical establishments, community housing and recreational use. The State provides matching funds for expenditure to the Town.

6-Council held a series of public hearings, numerous committee meetings and Council meetings in order to evaluate the proposal on the redevelopment of the South Weymouth Naval Air Base-submitted to Council by Lennar in September . The culmination of these efforts was a comprehensive letter to South Shore Tri-Town Development Corporation specific to the Council proposed revisions to the Re-Use Plan and Zoning Land Use By-Law documents. The next phase of the evaluation is to analyze the details of this project in conjunction with the Mayor’s Office.

President Lacey further went on to express his thanks to the Mayor’s Office and the Department Heads for their efforts surrounding the efficient handling of constituent concerns. He stated that there exists a great partnership between these groups.

President Lacey officially introduced all the members present of the Council:

Michael Smart (Vice President), Ken DiFazio, Paul J. Leary, Arthur Mathews, Colin McPherson, Michael Molisse

Diana Flemer, Chairperson of the School Committee, introduced all the members present: Diane Oliverio, Sean Guilfoyle, James Lockhead.

Councilor Smart motioned to open the following public hearings, which were published on 4/26/05:

05 034-Operating Measure #1-Appropriation to CIP Account

05 035-Operating Measure #2-Gift and Donation Account

05 036-Operating Measure #3-Order to Expend and Receive Funds in Certain Revolving Accounts

05 037-Operating Measure #4-Authorization for Use of Stabilization Account

05 038-Operating Measure #5-Authorization for Use Sale of Town Owned Property

05 039-Operating Measure #6-Appropriation Police Details

05 040-Operating Measure #7-Payment Property, Casualty and Other Insurances

05 041-Operating Measure #8-Payment of Fire Alarm Lease

05 042-Operating Measure #9-Postage

05 043-Operating Measure #10-Fiscal Year 2006 Appropriation

05 044-Operating Measure #11-Water Enterprise Fund Appropriation Order

05 045-Operating Measure #12-Sewer Enterprise Appropriation Order

05 046-Operating Measure #13-Sewer Enterprise Appropriation Order

05 047-Capital Request #1-Water Enterprise Fund Equipment Requests

05 048-Capital Request #2-Bond Authorization Route 18 Water Mains

Councilor Mathews seconded the motion and it was unanimously voted.

Mayor David M. Madden and Chief Financial Officer, Jim Wilson presented the Fiscal Year 2006 Budget via a power point presentation. Mayor Madden explained that work on the budget commences in January at which time he meets with each Department Head. Together they develop goals for their department for the upcoming year. He further explained that he wants to maintain all existing programs with a minimum of reliance on one time non-recurring revenue expenses. There is a 3 million dollar reduction in State Aid since Fiscal Year 2001. The Mayor's goals are to utilize non-recurring revenue, fund the 53rd week of payroll- outside of the budgetary process and evaluate open positions within the Town. Available revenues are a tax levy of \$63 million, state aid totaling \$30.6 million, local receipts of \$22 million and non-recurring revenues of \$1.735 million. The total projection of available revenue is \$115 million as related to the operating budget.

Jim Wilson spoke to real estate tax levies which account for 58% of the town's revenue. The total for Fiscal Year 2006 real estate tax assessment is \$62,994,488.86. Motor vehicle, personal property, boat and room taxes also account for a portion of the town's taxes.

Mayor Madden spoke to net state aid which totals \$25,482,190 for Fiscal Year 2006. He compared this figure to Fiscal Year 2001 which totaled \$28,404,732.

Jim Wilson delivered a comparative analysis of state aid in Fiscal 2001 (\$31,643,828), Fiscal 2005 (\$28,829,934), and Fiscal 2006 (\$30,082,474). Local receipts as related to departments are up 4.1%, deferred revenues are down 1.1% and interest and penalties on taxes realized an increase of 2%. Other sources of revenue are the Sewer Enterprise Fund which totals \$2.8 million, up \$900,000, and the Water Enterprise Fund at \$3.2 million, up \$400,000.

Mayor Madden discussed an overview of non-recurring revenue. His goal is to return all recurring expenses to the operating budget, over the course of the next several fiscal years.

The non-recurring revenue will be utilized towards general insurance coverage of \$667,552, a fire alarm payment of \$42,957 and postage of \$90,000.

Considerations as related to revenue are that state aid for Fiscal Year 2005 resulted in a substantial snow removal deficit and an increase in the amount of State Aid for Fiscal Year 2006. The Academy Avenue SBA reimbursement is projected at \$387,000.

The Mayor presented an overview of revenues versus fixed costs for Fiscal 2005 and Fiscal 2006. Revenues for FY05 were \$110,724,225, with fixed costs of \$27,840,399. Comparison to FY06 indicates revenues of \$115,011,368 and fixed costs at \$30,228,511. A remainder of \$82,883,826 exists for FY05, and a remainder of \$84,782,857 exists for FY06.

Jim Wilson provided an overview of fixed costs incurred which can be segregated into 11 different categories (debt service, state assessments, overlay, property insurance, reserve fund, employee health insurance, pensions, employer taxes, life insurance, workman's compensation and unemployment).

Mayor Madden spoke to the School Department's Budget for Fiscal Year 2006. The budget is up \$2.4 million –totaling \$52,514,781. This figure includes contractual increases for some bargaining units of \$1.6 million, \$500,000 increase in utility costs and a \$300,000 increase in program and curriculum support.

The Department of Public Work's budget has realized an increase of \$460,000. The total budget is \$8,148,894. The budget make up is salaries, \$310,000 fuel-\$100,000 in rubbish removal, \$57,000 for utility and street lighting, and \$27,000 in vehicles maintenance costs.

The Municipal Finance Department has been budgeted for \$1,592,980, up \$110,000. The budget make up is salaries, \$172,000 for appraisal services, and \$90,000 for postage.

The Mayor's Office's budget is down \$606,000 and totals \$398,319. This can be attributed to Town Property and Casualty Insurance, which was prefunded, and reinstatement of the Municipal Building Trust Fund.

Mayor Madden presented the Human Resource Department's budget and explained that this department was formerly under Administrative and Community Services, but now stands alone, with its own budget allocation. Human Resources budget is down \$28,000 and totals \$211,655. This is attributable to a reduction in expenses of \$9,000 and the elimination of a position.

Public Libraries Budget has seen an increase of \$15,000 and totals \$1,107,189. In an effort to control this increase, overtime has been eliminated.

The Town Council Budget of \$260,005 is up \$103.00 while the Town Clerk's Budget of \$306,465 has realized an increase of \$6,146.

The Town's Legal budget of \$295,030 has seen a decrease of \$38,700 as a result of reductions in both settlements line item and outside counsel fees.

Information Technology has been budgeted for \$734,342 which is a decrease over last fiscal year of \$3,512.

The Planning and Inspectional Services was budgeted \$385,518 and \$153,460 accordingly. The Planning budget is up \$32,072 and Inspection Services is up \$10,641.

Mayor Madden presented the budget for the Police Department-\$9,070,307 which has seen an increase of \$155,741 over last fiscal year. The Fire Department has been budgeted for \$7,069,259 for Fiscal Year 2006-this indicates an increase of \$23,000.

The Town's Health Department will require a reserve fund transfer and it was noted that the Board of Health stipends were omitted from the budget forecast. They have been budgeted \$401,933 which is a decrease of \$5,000.

Community and Administrative Service's budget indicates an increase of \$13,000-calculated at \$1,361,004. An increase in the cost of utilities was indicated as one factor contributing to the increase.

The Mayor discussed the Sewer Enterprise Fund Revenues which realized a 7% increase in the rates. The Sewer Enterprise Fund Expenses include the 53rd week of payroll and SEIU and non union step increases. Discussion ensued on the Water Enterprise Fund , which has not experienced a rate change since Fiscal Year 2003. Indirect costs have increased by \$200,000 due to an increase in debt service and retirement contribution.

Mayor Madden closed by again extending his thanks to all Department Heads for their work involved in formulation of the budget.

President Lacey stated that these are public hearings and asked if anyone from the public wished to comment.

Irving Murstein 463 Broad Street Weymouth MA

Mr. Murstein noted that a figure of 3.2 million appeared on the power point presentation relative to Sithe Energy. He further noted that a figure of \$4 million was stated during the presentation. He suggested that we clarify this difference.

Councilor Smart motioned to close all the public hearings for the evening, seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously.

Councilor McPherson expressed his concern with the decrease in state aid to the towns. He feels that unless we obtain additional aid from the state, then the communities will continue to experience budget shortcomings.

With no further business to conduct, Councilor Smart motioned to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting at 9:20 PM-Councilor Leary seconded-voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted, Approved By,

Diane T. Hachey Thomas J. Lacey
Recording Secretary Council President