

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
ABIGAIL ADAMS AUDITORIUM
May 14, 2007 - Monday

Present: Michael Smart, President
Paul J. Leary, Vice President
Kenneth DiFazio
Susan Kay
Arthur Mathews
Michael Molisse
Patrick O'Connor
Greg Shanahan
Kevin Whitaker

Not Present: John Carey
Thomas J. Lacey

Also Present: David Madden, Mayor
James Wilson, Chief Financial Officer
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
Franklin Fryer, Town Clerk
George Lane, Town Solicitor

President Smart called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, Town Clerk Franklin Fryer called attendance, with John Carey and Thomas J. Lacey absent.

The Weymouth High School Band, under direction of John Duff, played the Star Spangled Banner. A select group of students from the band played "Three Shades of Blues" then played a few selections.

Presentation of Scholarship Awards – President Smart invited Lois Desmond, Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, Mayor Madden and Councilor Leary, Vice President of the Town Council to present this year's recipients of scholarship awards. One hundred sixty seven completed applications were received by the committee, and forty awards are to be presented, for a total of \$37,500 in scholarships. This year's recipients were introduced and are: Jonathan R. Atwater, Chrisopher D. Berardi, Douglas W. Bocash, Jr., Richard Cassani, Jr., Lee V. Chau, Nicole A. Dabene, Anthony L. Dalessandro, Alicia M. Deacon, Margo T. DeLisle, Janine T. DiLorenzo, Sarah A. Dudley, Colleen M. Dunn, Nicole M. Elliott, Kelli N. Ellis, Stephen P. Flaherty, Paul F. Galligan, Stepheny M. Garland, Sarah A. Geden, Sarah Giannandrea, Lynne E. Harrington, Ashley P. Hazleton, John C. Hickey, Patrick J. Holland, Ryan-Jean Keenan, April L. Knapp, Lauren F. Lenihan, Robert MacLean, Thomas A. Manning, Heather R. Mattoon, Frank L. McPjee, Joseph L. McPhee, Danielle A. Moore, Kaitlin A. Murphy, Jennierose M. Rizzo, Madeline M. Sands, Laura S. Sheehan, Dianne M. Sullivan, Cara

M. Sullivan, Kevin L. Taylor, and Thomas P. Taylor. The scholarship recipients were given a standing ovation by the audience. Several sponsors, including businesses and organizations and the scholarship committee, under the direction of Donna Shea, and including Elaine DeCosta and Claire Cunningham were thanked for their efforts.

President Smart introduced the members of the Town Council, which include at-large members Kevin Whitaker, Patrick O'Connor, Michael Molisse, and Susan Kay and members from each district including Greg Shanahan (1), T. J. Lacey (2), Kenneth DiFazio (3), Arthur Mathews (4) and Paul Leary (5). He also acknowledged Town Clerk Franklin Fryer, Town Auditor Richard Swanson, and Town Solicitor George Lane.

President Smart read the Mission Statement of the Town Council and then gave a brief report of the Town Council. The independent audit conducted by O'Connor & Drew was just completed and for the second year in a row has been certified unqualified clean. This will positively impact the town's bonding capabilities.

Highlights of the past year include the purchase of a new ladder truck for the fire department, modification of the yard sale ordinance, adoption of a Community Preservation Committee funded by a 1% property tax surcharge, and the creation of a committee to oversee projects from that funding, bonding authority of \$1.3 million for parks and playground work, and the first round of private to public ways to increase highway funding.

President Smart acknowledged the presence of School Committee members in the audience, including Karen Berry, James Parker, James Lockhead and Superintendent Joseph Rull.

Councilor Leary made a MOTION to open the public hearings, which were published on May 3, 2007, and was seconded by Councilor Kay. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

- 07 041** – Operating Measure-Authorization for Use of Overlay Account Funds
- 07 042** – Operating Measure-Authorization for Use of Stabilization Account
- 07 043** – Operating Measure-Sale of Town Owned Property
- 07 044** – Operating Measure-General Fund Appropriation-Request Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Budget
- 07 045** – Donation Accounts-Annual Authorization to Receive Revenue and Expend Funds
- 07 046** – Revolving Accounts- Annual Authorization to Receive Revenue and Expend Funds
- 07 047** – Operating Measure-Sewer Enterprise Fund Appropriation Order
- 07 048** – Sewer Enterprise Fund-Residual Account
- 07 049** – Capital Projects from Sewer CP Residuals Account
- 07 050** – Bond Request for Sewer I/I
- 07 051** – Water Enterprise Fund-Annual Appropriation
- 07 052** – Water Enterprise Fund-Residual Account
- 07 053** – Water Enterprise Fund-Bond Authorization for Design and Construction for New Great Pond Water Treatment Plant
- 07 054** – Great Pond Water Treatment Plant Decommissioning, Borrowing

Request

- 07 055 – Community Preservation Committee FY08 Budget
- 07 056 – Community Preservation Committee-Wessagusset Field Improvements
- 07 057 – Community Preservation Committee-Recreation Pavilion
- 07 058 – Community Preservation Committee-Abigail Adams Birthplace
- 07 059 – Community Preservation Committee-Elmwood/Reed Cemetery Improvements

Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget –

Mayor Madden and James Wilson, Chief Financial Officer, gave an overview of the FY08 budget and driving factors in a power point presentation.

Budget priorities:

- maintain existing level of services and programs
- reduce utilization of non-recurring revenue
- work within the available budget

Revenue:

- use Governor’s proposed budget for state aid
- sale of town owned land - \$2M (auction of foreclosed property to take place in July)
- \$217,661 from stabilization account
- \$175,433 from overlay surplus

Revenue Sources – totaling \$126.4 million:

real estate tax levy - \$67.8M
personal Property Tax - \$1.8M
motor vehicle excise tax - \$6M
state aid - \$34.4M
local receipts - \$13.5M
transfers from special revenue accounts - \$1.9M

State Aid:

FY08 - \$28,609,114 (net)
Aid - \$34,489,093
Assessments \$5,879,979

FY08 - \$28,404,732 (net)
Aid - \$31,643,838
Assessments \$3,239,106

Real Estate Tax Levy:FY 07 LEVY LIMIT CALCULATIONFY08 SUBMITTAL

Prior Year's levy limit	\$67,526,635.00
Prior Year's personal property tax	1,828,365.27
Net real estate property tax	\$65,698,269.73
Sithe/Excelon tax payment	3,264,000.00
Net to calculate levy limit	\$62,434,269.73
2.5% levy limit increase	1,560,856.74
Sithe/Excelon payment	3,329,280.00
Real Estate tax levy	\$67,324,406.47
New growth	500,000.00
Total for RE tax assessment	\$67,824,406.47

Transfers from other funds:

<u>Line item 11450410.490020 detail</u>	<u>FY06</u>	<u>FY07</u>	<u>FY08</u>
Community Preservation Committee		\$30,000	\$30,000
Waterways Fund	\$80,000	80,000	80,000
Police Grants			
Rubbish Removal	\$1,663,000	1,663,000	1,500,000
Community Services Revolving	45,000	90,000	90,000
Sale of town owned property	300,000	1,000,000	
Overlay Surplus		300,000	
Police Detail	75,000	75,000	
TOTAL	2,163,000	3,238,000	1,875,433

Overview of Appropriation Request:

	<u>FY07</u>	<u>FY08</u>
Revenues	\$123,272,600	\$126,420,995
Fixed Costs	32,704,924	34,872,240
Operating Costs	90,576,676	91,548,755

Fixed Costs:

	<u>FY07</u>	<u>FY08</u>
Debt Service	\$8,422,411	\$8,333,551
State Charges	5,374,232	5,879,979
Overlay	600,000	600,000
Property Insurance	700,068	600,068
Reserve Fund	420,706	404,940
Health Insurance	8,519,770	9,858,987
Pensions	7,339,623	7,545,715
Employer taxes	722,000	922,000
Life Insurance	52,000	52,000
Workers Compensation	395,710	425,000
Unemployment	158,404	250,000

Education:

- \$55,966,070
 - increase over FY07
 - Implementation of Strategic Plan
 - Insuring appropriate class sizes
 - Creating smaller learning communities
 - Using MCAS to improve instruction
 - Developing multi-year curriculum review
 - Increase in special education costs
 - Increase in operating expenses
 - Step increases and longevity payments

Public Safety:

- Police Department \$10,171,838
 - \$267,515 increase
 - Step increases for payroll
 - Overtime increase for training on new systems
- Fire Department \$8,146,519
 - \$379,630 increase
 - step increases for payroll
 - increase for ladder truck lease

Public Works:

- \$8,804,729
 - \$235,742 increase
 - Rubbish removal increase

- Fuel Depot increase
- Vehicle maintenance increase

General Government:

- 12 Departments
 - total budget \$8,994,667
 - increase of \$310,332
 - Represents increases in utility costs, step increases
 - Increase in cost of revaluation of town

Sewer Enterprise Fund:

- \$13,573,262
 - \$390,891 increase (3%)
 - \$252,240 MWRA assessment increase
 - increases in utilities and health insurance
 - Fourth year of a 4 year rate plan to fund \$14.7 million of capital projects

Water Enterprise Fund:

- \$7,291,467
 - \$198,077 increase (2.8%)
 - increase for utilities, chemicals and health insurance
 - reserve fund of \$388,317 for potential repairs to GPWTP
 - Fourth year of a 4 year rate plan

Capital Expenditures:

- Water Department
 - Lagoon Decommissioning \$2.6 million
 - Great Pond Water Treatment Plant authorization to borrow additional \$5 million

(A neighborhood overview of the site for the Great Pond Water Treatment Plant was shown, with the estimated Construction Cost Summary.)

- Sewer Department
 - I/I Investigation \$173,000
 - Montcalm Study \$135,000
 - Landing Pump Station \$250,000
 - Ejector Stations \$270,000

Supplemental Budget:

	2-Apr-07	3-May-07	Difference
Revenue			
School Chapter 70	\$22,748,985	\$22,123,277	(\$625,708)
Police Incentives	460,486	498,060	37,574
Blind Abatements	104,076	199,901	95,825
Base Revenue	50,000	100,000	50,000

Total revenue adjustment	\$23,363,547	\$22,921,238	\$(422,309)
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Expenses:

Unemployment	\$250,000	\$200,000	(\$50,000)
Life Insurance	52,000	35,000	(17,000)
Retired Teachers' Health Insurance	3,733,966	3,577,186	(156,780)
Elder Services Salaries	140,523	131,080	(9,443)
Schools	55,966,070	55,756,984	(209,086)
Total Expense Reductions	\$60,142,559	\$59,700,250	(\$422,309)

Community Preservation Committee

- Community Preservation Projects:
 - Fogg Library Renovations \$382,000
 - Phase I of Back River Trail \$226,700
 - Wessagusset Field Improvements \$141,000
 - Pavilion at O'Sullivan Park \$66,000
 - Structural Study Abigail Adams Birthplace \$12,000
 - Elmwood/Reed Cemeteries \$12,000
- Mandatory Set Aside Reserves - 10% minimum from FY08 estimated revenues allocated to each of the following:
 - Open Space
 - Historic Resources
 - Community Housing

Funds may be expended during FY08 or set aside for future projects with the allocated category.

FY08 Proposed Expense Budget Summary:

Administrative Costs	\$ 51,763
General Reserve	251,026
Open Space – Back River Trail	123,473
Historic Resources – Fogg Library Restoration	382,000
Community Housing	103,527
Recreation – Back River Trail	123,473
Total FY08 Expense Budget	\$1,035,262

FY08 Estimated Revenue:

- 1% surcharge estimated at \$510,861-based on 2 ½% increase of FY07 actual revenue
- state Match estimated at \$498,401 – based on 100% match of FY07 estimated receipts
- interest income estimated at \$25,000
- interest and penalties estimated at \$1,000
- Total FY08 estimated revenue - \$1,035,262

FY08 Expense Budget – General:

Administrative Costs (maximum 5% of FY08 total est. revenue	\$51,763
Recording Secretary (approximately 25 meetings)	3,750
Miscellaneous expenses	13,013
Salary allocations	35,000
General reserve fund	\$251,026

Mayor Madden concluded the presentation and noted his appreciation of school department officials in setting limits knowing not all needs will be met. Every department is struggling to meet their needs; however, unlike many towns and cities across the state, Weymouth is not looking at a Proposition 2 1/2 override. the Mayor is pleased to have met two of his three goals with this budget (maintain existing services, working within the available budget), and will continue to chip away at the use of non-recurring revenue. At the close of the presentation, members of the public were invited to comment. There were no citizens who came forward.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to close the public hearing and was seconded by Councilor Kay. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Reports of Committees – Budget Management Committee

07 049 – Capital Projects from Sewer CP Residuals Account – Councilor DiFazio, Chairman of the Budget/Management Committee, reported this measure was originally submitted to Council on March 30, 2007. This was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on April 2, 2007. Budget/Management voted at its meeting of April 19, 2007 to bring to full Council with a favorable recommendation. This was published on May 3, 2007 and the public hearing was held on May 14, 2007.

A MOTION was made by Councilor DiFazio to Raise and Appropriate the Sum of \$828,000 from the Sewer Enterprise Capital Projects Residual Account (Fund 34164200) for the following purposes:

I/I Investigations	\$173,000 (#38 March, 2007 CIP)
Montcalm Engineering Review	\$135,000 (#37 March, 2007 CIP)
Pump Stations	\$250,000 (#37 March, 2007 CIP)
Ejector Stations	\$270,000 (#37 March, 2007 CIP)

Motion was seconded by Councilor Kay. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

At 8:47, there being no further business, a MOTION was made by Councilor Molisse to ADJOURN, and was seconded by Councilor DiFazio. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Michael Smart
Town Council President