

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
December 3, 2018, Monday**

Present: Michael Molisse, Chairman
Jane Hackett, Vice Chairman
Christopher Heffernan, Councilor
Maureen Kiely, Councilor
Brian McDonald, Councilor

Also Present: Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
Joseph Callanan, Town Solicitor
Paul Haley, Chair of the Board of Assessors
Trish O’Kane, Principal Assessor
Board of Assessors

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chairman Molisse called the meeting to order at 6:50 PM.

18 124-Fiscal Year 2019 Tax Classification

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on November 19, 2018. The chair invited the Board of Assessors Chair, Paul Haley and Principal Assessor Trish O’Kane to the table. Mr. Haley introduced the members of committee who were present. He reviewed the process of assessing. This year shows significant appreciation. 8% residential (8.1 year prior) and commercial not as quickly (6.6%- previously 5.2). Because of the appreciation and the history of shifting the burden, most of the new growth is residential and most is attributable to Union Point. They have produced a shift since the early 2000’s. In recent years, they tried to reduce the shift so as not to have commercial owners bear the burden and it has continued to come down. The board recommends 45%; the same as last year. Without it, the average homeowner would see a significant increase. He provided an illustration of the indications of the shift.

Councilor Hackett noted Weymouth is still the lowest taxed community in comparison to its neighbors. She asked about overlay balances. Mr. Haley responded that it is doing well, but they had to negotiate a couple of properties. New properties came on the tax roll. There is personal property that the town will not be able to collect. They discussed with the Mayor’s office to see what is reasonable. Two years ago they returned quite a bit.

Councilor Hackett asked about new growth on Union Point. Ms. O’Kane responded that it is \$140,770; 41% from historic, 40% from Union Point and 18% from personal property. The personal property is due to the utility companies.

A motion was made by Councilor Hackett to forward measure 18 124 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Kiely. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

18 125-CPA Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on November 19, 2018. Mr. Luongo presented the measure requesting \$50,000 to update the town's open space plan, which was last updated in 2013 and the 7-year plan expires in January, 2020. The process has already begun with community meetings, user groups and coordinated with Recreation, Asset Management, DPW, etc. to set up with goals and an implementation plan. Without a plan in place, the town stands to lose opportunity to secure federal and grant funding. The parks at Emery and Osprey Park would not have been possible if a plan hadn't been in place. They will solicit proposals and hope it will come in under \$50,000. The Mayor has established a committee to oversee the input process.

Councilor Hackett asked if the Town Council should have representation in that group. Mr. Luongo responded not necessarily; it's not specifically for oversight of the open space planning process. It would not be Town Council time well spent. Any Councilor may sponsor a community meeting to solicit input.

A motion was made by Councilor Hackett to forward measure 18 125 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Heffernan. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

18 128-Appointment to Board of Health-Peter Butler

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on November 19, 2018. Mr. Butler was invited to the table to review his interest and qualifications. He noted his 19-years of experience in health care.

A motion was made by Councilor Hackett to forward measure 18 128 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Heffernan. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:13 PM, there being no further business, a MOTION was made by Councilor Hackett to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Heffernan. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary.

Approved by Michael Molisse as Budget/Management Committee Chairman
Voted unanimously on 17 Decembe 2018