

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Annual Town Meeting
Abigail Adams Auditorium
89 Middle Street
May 21, 2018, Monday**

Present: Michael Smart, President
Arthur Mathews, Vice President
Kenneth DiFazio, Councilor
Jane Hackett, Councilor
Fred Happel, Councilor
Ed Harrington, Councilor
Rebecca Haugh, Councilor
Christopher Heffernan, Councilor
Michael Molisse, Councilor

Absent: Thomas J. Lacey, Councilor
Brian McDonald, Councilor

Also Present: Robert Hedlund, Mayor
Joseph Callanan, Town Solicitor
Kathleen Deree, Town Clerk
Ted Langill, Chief of Staff
Brian Connolly, Chief Financial Officer
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
Richard Grimes, Chief of Police
Keith Stark, Fire Chief
Kenan Connell, DPW Director
Robert Luongo, Planning Director
Rob McLean, Library Director
Jennifer Curtis-Whipple, Superintendent of Schools
Lisa Belmarsh, Chair, School Committee

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

President Smart called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Town Clerk Kathy Deree called the roll, with two members absent. President Smart reported that Councilors McDonald and Lacey were unable to be present due to illness and a prior engagement.

Presentation of Scholarship Awards

- Chairperson Lois Desmond, Scholarship Committee
- Robert Hedlund, Mayor
- Michael Smart, Town Council President

President Smart invited Ms. Desmond and Mayor Hedlund to present. Scholarship Chair Lois Desmond read a brief overview of the Scholarship program, now in its 27th year.

A total of \$81,452 was awarded to Weymouth residents. Residents may now make a donation online. Ms. Desmond thanked James Malary and his staff for their assistance. Additionally, inserts went into the last tax bills. Both of these changes contributed to an uptick in collections. She also thanked the sponsors. She noted one member of the committee is leaving in June, and she acknowledged Janet Tatten- McGrath for her service.

The scholarship recipients included high school seniors from both public and private high schools, students presently attending college and adults returning to college for retraining or to further their college education. The funds for these awards are possible through the generosity of Weymouth citizens who donated to the Fund and Business Partners, Organizations, and Sponsors of Memorial Scholarships. President Smart, Mayor Hedlund and Ms. Desmond presented the Town of Weymouth Scholarships to the following Weymouth residents:

High School Graduates--students who will graduate from public and private high schools this year including Career and Technical students

Caroline J. Barrett	Amanda Blake	Jada Bowen
Lindsey Brodeur	Jennifer Cole	Cassie Collins
Kevin Curtin	Sophia DiMare	Victoria Dodd
Sean Doohue	Kaleigh Doucette	Samuel Edge
Veronica Fisher	Michael Flaherty	Sara Getman
Bruce Hallgren	Makayla Hawes	Tricia Howes
Elysia Johnson	Patrick Kelly	Sean Kennedy
Diana Laenen	Morgan Long	Gerard Mackin
Meghan McLaughlin	Rebecca Nolan	Carley O'Toole
Victoria Scheuren	Tessa Schneider	Amanda Stackpole
Adam Strohm	Patrick Tevenan	Brooke Valicanti
Callie Walsh	Jacob Welch	

Presently attending college:

Neil Bowen	Erin Cunningham	Aidan Gallegos
Elizabeth Johnson	Haley Mueller	Zachary Sanborn
Colleen West		

RETURNING ADULTS – Residents returning to college for retraining or to further their college education:

Kristian Kelley	Khelsea O'Brien	Andrew Sheridan
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SALVATORE AND MARIA PIZZI FAMILY FOUNDATION RENEWAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Salvatore and Maria Pizzi Family Foundation Renewal Scholarship awards.

The Foundation was set up by the Pizzi brothers to honor their mother and father who valued education and hard work. The Foundation sponsors two \$3,000 scholarships each year and those scholarships are renewable at the discretion of the Foundation and the Town of Weymouth Scholarship Fund Committee. The following former Salvatore and Maria Pizzi Scholarship recipients have met the eligibility requirements and based on their final GPA score for the year, their award will be renewed.

Anthony Byrne	Zachary Rush	Kevin Lyons
Stephanie Smith	Justin Delano	Nathan Murphy

The audience stood and applauded the recipients.

Overview of Legislative Activities for Fiscal Year 2018 **-Michael Smart Town Council President**

Council Michael Smart acknowledged the members of Town Council, Administration and School Committee who were present and read the following address:

*“Good evening and thank you for attending our Annual Town Meeting.
Congratulations to all of the scholarship recipients.*

Pursuant to Section 6-6 of the Town Charter, the Town Council President shall deliver an update on the legislative activities of the Council, for fiscal 2018—which commenced on July 1, 2017.

The Town Council has held a total of 48 meetings to date. This includes regularly scheduled Town Council Meetings, Special Town Council Meetings, and numerous meetings of the 12 committees under the jurisdiction of the Council.

As the legislative branch of government, the Town Council is responsible for approving measures, new appointments and reappointments, town ordinances, and the operating budget for the town, as submitted by Mayor Hedlund. The Council, while deliberating over the budget, and pursuant to the town charter, cannot increase, but can only reduce the budget.

I am honored to lead this esteemed body of Councilors and can attest to the devotion and hard work that each of them brings to the table.

I would like to take a moment to highlight several measures which were addressed by the Town Council during fiscal 2018:

The Town Council approved a Commercial Zoning Overlay District. The intent is to create development and redevelop opportunities along portions of the town's major commercial corridors, which include Route 18, Route 53, Route 3A and a portion of Columbian Street.

Additionally, the Town Council deliberated, made numerous suggested revisions and successfully voted an approved Housing Production Plan. This plan assesses a community's housing needs and identifies goals and proactive strategies for developing appropriate housing that meets the current and future needs of all residents of the community.

The Town Council approved funding to hire a construction management service for complete streets improvements within the town. This effort will also be funded by a state grant. The upgrades will provide safe and accessible options for people of all ages and abilities and modes of travel, including walking, bicycling, driving and public transit.

The Council unanimously approved a measure prohibiting commercial marijuana which are non-medical "marijuana establishments".

The Town Council approved funding from the Community Preservation Committee proposals, which resulted in the following:

A street hockey rink and parking at Stella Tirrell Park in South Weymouth

CPC matching funds for a feasibility study at Lakeview Manor

The Town Council approved funding for a newly constructed Tufts library that will serve as not only a library but a cultural center, and town meeting place. In July 2017, the Town was awarded a \$12 million Massachusetts Public Library Construction Grant. We were one of only nine communities to receive a grant out of 33 library applicants. The award will finance more than 40% of the library's eligible construction cost, and the project is currently on schedule for bidding by the end of the calendar year.

The Town Council approved to appropriate funding to replace street lights throughout the town.

The Town Council approved bonding for the costs of replacing boilers at the Thomas W. Hamilton Primary School and at the Wessagusset Primary School.

The Town Council recognizes the opioid crisis plaguing our nation's cities and towns. In August of 2018 we signed a resolution in support of House Bill 975, entitled "Stephen's Law", which encourages stiffer penalties for the distribution of fentanyl that results in death.

Our Town Auditor, Mr. Swanson provides analysis to the Councilors on the Mayor's proposed financial measures, including the Annual Operating and Capital Budget submissions.

He conducted several detailed audits of town departments and operations in order to examine financial transactions and to evaluate internal controls in place regarding all cash related activities.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to my fellow Councilors, the employees of the Council and Clerk's Offices, Mayor Robert Hedlund, his Administration, and the School Department for their ongoing efforts.

Additionally, I would like to extend my appreciation to the residents of the Town of Weymouth, who by their valuable input at meetings and during public hearings have brought to light important issues, and have illustrated the true definition of democracy. The Council appreciates your participation in local government."

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Measures:

18 060-General Government Annual Appropriation

- 18 060 A-Town Council
- 18 060 B-Mayor's Office
- 18 060 C-Reserve Fund
- 18 060 D-Municipal Finance
- 17 060 E-Town Solicitor
- 18 060 F-Information Services
- 18 060 G-Town Clerk
- 18 060 H-Planning and Conservation
- 18 060 I-Asset Management
- 18 060 J- Town Building Maintenance
- 18 060 K-Human Resources
- 18 060 L-Police Department

18 060 M-Fire Department

18 060 N-Licensing and Inspections

18 060 O-Department of Public Works

18 060 P-Health

18 060 Q-Library

18 060 R-Veterans' Services

18 060 S-Parks and Recreation

18 060 T-Elder Services

18 060 U-Civil Defense

18 060 V-Commission on Disabilities

18 060 W-Youth and Family Services

18 060 X-Debt

18 060 Y-Pensions and Benefits

17 051 Z-Schools

18 060 AA-State and County Assessments

17 051 BB-Overlay for Abatements

18 061-Revolving Accounts Annual Authorization

18 062-Gift Accounts Annual Authorization

18 063-Free Cash for FY17 Snow Removal

18 064-Water Enterprise Fund Annual Appropriation

18 065-Water Main Improvements

18 066-Water Treatment Plant and Well Improvements

18 067-Water Capital Equipment

18 068-Sewer Enterprise Fund Annual Appropriation

18 069-Sewer Department-MWRA I/I Phase 10 Allocation

18 070-Sewer Pump Station Improvements

18 071-Sewer Capital Equipment

18 072-Community Preservation Fund Annual Appropriation

18 073-Free Cash for Stabilization Fund

18 074-Free Cash Transfer to OPEB Trust Fund

18 075-Free Cash for Fore River Ave. Seawall Improvements

18 076-Free Cash for School IT

18 077-Free Cash for School Education Materials

18 078-Free Cash for New Police Cruisers

18 079-Free Cash for Protective Firefighter Equipment

18 080-Free Cash for Road and Sidewalk Improvements

18 081-Free Cash for Street Drainage Improvements

18 082-Free Cash for Front End Loader

18 083-Free Cash for a One-Ton Truck with Plow/Sander

18 084-Free Cash for Clark Nature Center Improvements

Issue-Capital Improvement Plan FY 2019 –vote to accept report

A motion was made by Vice President Mathews to open the public hearings on measures 18 060 through 18 084, inclusive, and was seconded by Councilor Harrington. This was advertised on May 11, 2018. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

State of the Town- Mayor Robert Hedlund

Mayor Hedlund presented the following remarks:

“The State of Weymouth is very good- and the momentum we have seen in recent years continues.

*Most of what we will talk about this evening is what was presented last year and in 2016, as concepts or plans. Tonight, you will see many of those plans have come to fruition. These capital improvements have greatly improved the appearance of our Town, increased our economic base and home values, increased pride in our Town, and is providing better recreational opportunities for our citizens and children. Our budgeting for operations has resulted in clarity and consistency, allowing for improved planning and greater efficiency.
(More budget details to follow)*

Opiate Narrative

As of May 1, 2018 there have been...

*39 reported overdoses
2 deaths attributed to overdose
and Narcan has been used 23 times.*

At the Same Time Last Year there were...

*81 reported overdoses
15 deaths attributed to overdose
and Narcan was used 40 times.*

THANK YOU to our Police, Fire and Health Departments for their outreach and lifesaving efforts!

School Narrative

Continued Cooperation and Collaboration

– Superintendent and School Committee

Continue practice of using reliable and recurring revenues to fund the school budget up front ... ended practice of mid-year infusion of free cash that created structural budget deficits.

Proposed FY19 budget will fund Schools ABOVE Level Services for third straight year. In addition to a Strong School Operating Budget, with the FY19 Budget, we will have invested more than \$6.2 Million in School Capital Needs over the last three budgets.

- IT infrastructure and devices (\$2.3 million)*
- Curriculum and textbooks (\$505,000)*
- HVAC improvements*
- Needed maintenance vehicles*
- Replacement of boilers at Hamilton and Wessagussett*
- The \$1M Feasibility Study to build a new Chapman*

Finances

Another Balanced, Fiscally Responsible Budget

Based on Realistic and Recurring Revenue Projections

Continue with moderate and incremental growth

This year's FY19 budget – 4.0% growth

Last Year's FY18 – 4.3%

Our First Budget FY17 – 4.0%

As the Chief of Staff will detail in his presentation, the FY19 budget is remarkable in that all of the increased revenue is Town generated (tax levy and local receipts)

We have not taken these good economic times for granted. When I took office, the Town's stabilization fund was at \$1.1 million. With this budget and another \$2 million transfer from Free Cash, our stabilization fund will increase to \$5.5 million...

He noted he needed to recognize the Town Council (especially in times when they agree) and the Town Hall staff and closed with the comment that much of what is presented this year was conceptual a year ago. Capital improvements have greatly increased. He presented the highlights in a Powerpoint presentation with Nick Bulens:

- *Libbey Field- first nightly games – gone from worst to best in fields.*
- *Veterans Memorial Wall- almost complete- highlights the five medal winners in town*
- *Whipple Senior Center- improvements – some of the recreation improvements geared towards children, but this is for the seniors*
- *Environmental needs- Puritan Road Culvert*
- *Stella Tirrell Field and rinks*
- *King Oak Hill Park- passive recreation (reuse plan for Emery Estate- RFP out now)- searching for an economic model that works)*
- *Conversion of landfill to Osprey Overlook Park*
- *Lovell Fields & Playground – revenue generator for the town. Plenty of parking but an issue with access- to see about pedestrian connection to MBTA lot.*
- *New Tufts Library- limited window of time to prepare grant and meet guidelines. On target for groundbreaking later this year.*
- *New Chapman Middle School-in midst of feasibility study with funding vote expected in Spring 2019.*

School budget-

Prioritizing School Funding

Thank you to school superintendent and her staff leading to cooperation.

Major Grants awarded this year:

- Coastal Resilience
- Fore River Avenue Seawall Reconstruction- done first to deal with easements. Fort Point Road is next in that neighborhood.
- MA Library Construction
- LED Street lighting
- Complete Streets
- Green Communities
- Municipal Small Bridge for Commercial Street Bridge- angle on the herring run
- PARC Grant

Investing in Weymouth

- Fixing roads/sidewalks

- Road segments reconstructs
- 100 concrete sidewalk panels removed and replaced
- road restoration work
- funding five firefighters
- funded one new firefighter and two police
- purchased fire engine upgrades to station 1
- funded body armor and security upgrades
- new front line cruisers
- settled and funded four public safety CBA
- funding for protective firefighter gear
- replace seven front line cruisers
- health department and police fire outreach re- opioid addiction, thanks to everyone involved in the effort
- all fields have received improvements that includes irrigation
- improvements at Lane Beach
- Spectra- the town continues to fight aggressively against the locating of the compressor station. He thanked Councilor Haugh and Solicitor Callanan for interrupting their timeline.

He noted the enhancement to the town-his vision over the last year has become a reality. It is a source of pride seeing what town employees have accomplished and noted the creativity by employees. Volunteers are greatly appreciated and he is appreciative to all.

Presentation of the Budget- Mayor Robert Hedlund, Chief of Staff Ted Langill and Brian Connolly, Chief Financial Officer

Chief of Staff Langill presented the FY18 Budget in PowerPoint format (attached).

Council President Smart thanked the administration for the presentation and asked if there were any comments from the public.

Robert Montgomery, Thomas 848 Washington St. welcomed back Ms. LaCroix and noted Nick Bulens' work on grants. He stated the increase in wages for municipal workers has increased more than the national average and affects vulnerable seniors. He noted his tax bill has increased more than 2.5% and asked for an explanation. President Smart asked him to keep to the topic. Mr. Langill provided an explanation of Prop. 2.5% and the difference between new growth and personal property tax. Mr. Thomas responded that new growth is skewing the numbers. Mr. Langill responded that if a homeowner's taxes increase it's because the value has gone up.

Michael Grafton, Morningside Path, commended the administration for the presentation and asked if they could consider an embedded online interactive planning tool where the public can access the different projects and status and can include citizen participation as a way to account for open space, public transit and the proper mix of

residential and commercial to see how it would impact. It's good for accountability and a plus for civic engagement.

Mayor Hedlund responded that they are always looking to make improvements, and he appreciated the input. The IT department is working at making the website more user friendly. The town recently scored well on everything except the website. Shawn Rothman responded that IT is working on providing more transparency and is working on a big initiative, in phases to create more interactive and online services. The process is currently underway.

Andrea Honore, 61 House Rock Road, thanked the town for meeting net school spending requirements.

Sue Torres, Broad Street asked if the Mayors of the towns of Weymouth, Braintree and Quincy could coordinate legal spending in opposition to the compressor station. Mayor Hedlund responded that the Mayors have spoken. They are encouraged to take steps in solidarity.

A Motion was made by Vice President Mathews to close the public hearings for measures 18 060 through 18 084 and was seconded by Councilor Harrington. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the Town Council is scheduled for June 4, 2018. At 9:27 PM, there being no further business, a Motion was made by Vice President Mathews to Adjourn and was seconded by Councilor DiFazio.

Attachments

Respectfully submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Council President Michael Smart
Voted unanimously on 31 July 2018