

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Annual Town Meeting
Abigail Adams Auditorium
89 Middle Street
May 20, 2019, 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
Brian McDonald, Councilor
Michael Molisse, Councilor

Absent: Maureen Kiely, Councilor

Also Present: Ted Langill, Chief of Staff
Joseph Callanan, Town Solicitor
Kathleen Deree, Town Clerk
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

President Smart called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Town Clerk Kathleen Deree called the roll, with one member absent. President Smart reported that Councilor Kiely may arrive late.

Presentation of Scholarship Awards

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

President Smart invited Ms. Desmond and Mayor Hedlund to join him. Ms. Desmond read a brief overview of the Scholarship program, now in its 28th year.

A total of \$86,800 was awarded to Weymouth residents. Residents can make a donation online. She thanked the sponsors and the committee members.

Scholarship recipients include 48 high school seniors from public and private 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. Ms. Desmond, President Smart,

and Mayor Hedlund presented the awards.

Ms. Desmond provided an update on the committee; donations have been steady and the online website is working well. The committee had one retirement and one resignation this year. She thanked town staff including the Treasurer and Collector’s offices and the DPW who assisted with processing and tracking the donations and awards. She also thanked the Mayor and Chief of Staff who were open to the committee’s ideas. This administration has raised more money than most. She saluted the sponsors. There are 5 new memorial sponsors and scholarships were awarded in memory of Lee Godbout, Jack Sheehan, and Michael Grafton. She hopes they will become annual donations. (An ovation was given to family members present.) The WHS Class of 1994 established a memorial scholarships in memory of Christopher Ahl, and Sgt. Chesna and the donations totaled over \$17k in memory of their classmates.

High School Graduates-students who will graduate from public and private high schools this year, including Career and Technical programs were as follows:

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Nicholas A Abbott | Samantha Amendolare | Dennis P Brooks |
| Caroline E Casey | Ryan P Delano | Jack P Duggan |
| Julia E Fletcher | Mathew S Freitas | Caroline M Gable |
| Alexis M Griffin | Juline H Horan | Emily M Leonard |
| Nathan M Liebert | Isabella R Lynch | Emma N Lynch |
| Haley A Mohn | Meghan A O’Loughlin | Emma R Lynch |
| Samantha A Pelrine | Dorien A Perry-Tillman | Daniel A Paczuski |
| Matthew I Prescott | Alexis I Ralston | Abigail Pineiro |
| Samuel Rosario | Micah R. Vazquez | Thomasina S Rogers |
| Stephen Yu | | |

Students presently attending college were as follows:

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Kevin D Curtain | Haleigh R Dion | Michael Howes |
| Trisha L Howes | Teryk Jang-Lapchak | Meghan E Laurie |
| Samantha A Lord | Meghan C McLaughlin | Haley E Mueller |
| Kathleen M Mueller | Emily L Perriello | Amanda E Stackpole |

Returning adults-residents returning to college were as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|--|
| Briana Melzone Colleran | Melani Makanui | |
|-------------------------|----------------|--|

The Foundation was set up by the Pizzi brothers to honor their mother and father who valued education and hard work. The Foundation now sponsors three \$3,000 scholarships each year, and those 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.

Salvatore and Maria Pizzi Family Foundation Renewal Scholarships were awarded to the following:

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Kevin Lyons | Stephanie M Smith | Justin D Delano |
| Nathan R Murphy | Adam J Strohm | Callie N Walsh |

Sanding ovation

A motion was made by Vice President Mathews to take a two-minute recess and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

The Annual Town Meeting reconvened at 8:14 PM.

Overview of Legislative Activities for Fiscal Year 2019

- Michael Smart, Town Council President

Council President Smart acknowledged the members of Town Council, Administration and School Committee who were present and read an address thanking the public for attending, congratulated the scholarship recipients, and provided an update of the Council’s past year that included:

- 42 meetings, including regularly scheduled, Special Town Council meetings, and numerous meetings of the 12 committees under Town Council’s jurisdiction

Highlights of the past year’s measures:

- replacement of the District Two Councilor, Thomas Lacey, who served on the Council for 18 years, by Councilor Maureen Kiely
- Approved several traffic regulations which ensured safety for our residents at Legion Field, Pingree School, Jackson Square, Commercial/Phillips and Mutton Lane
- Community Preservation funding was used for the following projects:
 - o \$24,500 for historic preservation of the Abigail Adams House
 - o \$50,000 for an open space plan update
 - o \$65,500 for a study for Smelt Brook in Weymouth Landing
 - o \$35,311 for preservation of historic library items
 - o \$77,428 match for Commonwealth Trails Program
- Approved expending free cash for the purchase of a new bucket truck and wood chipper for DPW and nearly half a million dollars for park and field improvements
- The dedication of land on King Oak Hill for park and recreational purposes
- Conservation restrictions were placed on four parcels of land
- Ground breaking for construction of new Tuft’s Library
- Approved a tax incremental financing agreement in Weymouth Landing in order to spur economic development to the area
- Approved funding in order to complete daylighting of the Smelt Brook in Weymouth Landing
- Extended lease on the Connell Pool and radio towers for industrial communications

- \$1.9 million was approved for emergency repairs to the water treatment plant
- Resolutions supporting United Steelworker employees lock-out, Stop and Shop employee strike and support of constructing a new Chapman Middle School

President Smart acknowledged the work of the Town Auditor, and extended his appreciation to fellow Councilors, the employees in the Council and Clerk’s offices, the Mayor and his administration and the School Department for their ongoing efforts. He expressed his appreciation to the residents who provided valuable input at meetings and at public hearings to bring important issues to light and illustrated the true definition of democracy.

A motion was made by Vice President Mathews to take consideration of the Capital Improvement Plan out of order and was seconded by Councilor Haugh.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Capital Improvement Plan – FY20 – Vote to Accept the Report

A motion was made by Councilor Mathews to accept the report of the Capital Improvement Plan for FY20-2024 and was seconded by Councilor DiFazio.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A motion was made by Vice President Mathews to open the public hearing on measures 19 051 through 19 069 and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. This was published on May 10, 2018. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

19 051-General Government Annual Appropriation

- 19 051 A -Town Council**
- 19 051 B-Mayor’s Office**
- 19 051 C-Reserve Fund**
- 19 051 D-Municipal Finance**
- 19 051 E-Town Solicitor**
- 19 051 F-Information Services**
- 19 051 G-Town Clerk**
- 19 051 H-Planning and Conservation**
- 19 051 I-Asset Management**
- 19 051 J-Town Building Maintenance**
- 19 051 K-Human Resources**
- 19 051 L-Police Department**
- 19 051 M-Fire Department**
- 19 051 N-Licensing and Inspections**
- 19 051 O-Department of Public Works**
- 19 051 P-Health**
- 19 051 Q-Library**
- 19 051 R-Veterans’ Services**

19 051 S-Parks and Recreation
19 051 T-Elder Services
19 051 U-Civil Defense
19 051 V-Commission on Disabilities
19 051 W-Youth and Family Services
19 051 X-Debt Service
19 051 Y-Pensions and Benefits
19 051 Z-Schools
19 051 AA-State and County Assessments
19 051 BB-Overlay for Abatements

19 052-Revolving Accounts Annual Authorization
19 053-Gift Accounts Annual Authorization
19 054-Free Cash for Stabilization Fund
19 055-Free Cash Transfer to OPEB Trust Fund
19 056-Free Cash for FY19 Snow Removal
19 057-Free Cash for School IT
19 058-Free Cash for Educational Materials
19 059-Free Cash for School Chair Lifts
19 060-Free Cash for CTE Educational Materials
19 061-Free Cash for New Police Cruisers
19 062-Free Cash for Station 2 Repairs and Improvements
19 063-Free Cash for Fire Department Mini Pumper
19 064-Sewer Enterprise Fund FY20 Appropriation
19 065- Sewer Retained Earnings-Pump Station Improvements
19 066-Sewer Retained Earnings-Capital Equipment
19 067-Water Enterprise Fund FY20 Appropriation
19 068-Community Preservation Fund Annual Appropriation
19 069-Authorization to Expend CDBG & Home Funds

“State of the Town”-Mayor Robert L. Hedlund

Mayor Hedlund read an address, and reviewed the final budget submission of his first term via powerpoint presentation.

Highlight Project updates:

Roads & sidewalks - \$3,571,393 spent on thirty reconstruction and improvement projects

Commercial Street Bridge replacement - \$1,000,000 (\$500,000 in state funding)

Six drainage improvement projects

Tufts Library construction – under construction status / expected completion 2020

Parks & Fields / ongoing projects- \$14,567,560 (\$694,000 in state grants and earmarks)

- Weston Park
- Stella Tirrell Park
- Great Esker Park
- Lovell
- Libby

- Weston
- Osprey Overlook Park
- King Oak Hill Park
- Developed a self-sustainable fee schedule for use and upkeep of town fields

Ongoing

- Beach Connection (Wessagusset Walk)- contracted with Coastal Engineering- conceptual plans complete, NOI and permits submitted. Construction no sooner than 2020
- Coastal Resiliency-Fore River Seawall Reconstruction- construction completed in July
- Fort Point Road Seawall Reconstruction-75% design completed in June- seeking additional grant funding for construction
- Home Elevation Program
- LED streetlights-program complete, final auditing- proactivity to green community in order to apply for grant funding to complete this.
- Weatherization of four municipal buildings
- Complete Streets Grant- pedestrian safety measures – next five intersections
- Smelt Brook Daylighting- (he recognized the efforts of Bob Luongo, Planning Director)
- Chapman School replacement-he noted his appreciation to the public for supporting this and Ted Langill’s devotion to the project. They will see success with project management and on schedule for opening in 2022. Grade alignment will take place during construction with a new alignment when it’s complete
- Connell Pool and Rink- taken over management and operation of the facility. More opportunity for Weymouth youth – extension of hours and additional programming-great potential
- Opioid prevention- DPH reported Weymouth was one of three Massachusetts towns to see decreases as a result of a concerted effort to provide immediate response. Narcan was administered over 350 times, and use has dropped from 2017 with outreach and mental health services.
- Compressor station- he noted the activity. Legal efforts were undertaken with a significant use of town tax dollars. It’s ongoing, and not successful so far, but they continue to fight.

He continued and presented the 4th budget submitted. This is a tapping of the brakes as a result of a slowdown of local receipts and increases. Growth was 4% last year and this budget represents a 3.4% growth

Presentation of Fiscal Year 2020 Budget -Mayor Robert L. Hedlund -Ted Langill, Chief of Staff

Chief of Staff Langill presented the fiscal year 2020 budget via power point:

- Slowdown of growth (revenue-decreased)
- Operating budget growth

- New tax revenue
- New local receipts
- New local aid
- Tax levy
- Local receipts
- Local aid
- Departments – not all collective bargaining contracts are settled
- Breakdown of budget increases
 - School
 - Non-department
 - Department
- State assessments (increased)

- Departments with budget increases
 - IT- moving MUNIS
 - Asset Management-one position added and street lighting transferred in
 - Adding \$225K for field maintenance
- Police
 - Restore 2 officer positions
- Fire
 - Restore 2 firefighter positions
- Town Solicitor
 - Assistant Solicitor added- additional due to compressor station fight
- Town clerk
 - Additional election – presidential primary
- Parks and Recreation
 - Adding responsibilities, adjusting job descriptions
- Procurement
 - Added analyst

School operating – 4% increase

- Level service
- Compliance needs
- Additional needs list

Community Preservation Account

- Administrative
- Open space/recreation
- Historic preservation
- Affordable housing

Water & Sewer

- Water flat
- MWRA increase

School:

- \$3 million in information technology upgrades
- \$3 million upgrading curriculum
- \$3 million in school capital needs
- \$1 million for a feasibility study

Net School Spending Growth progress

Per pupil spending

Significant improvement on both

Fire department

- Funding 5 former grant positions
- Added 4 firefighters
- Purchase of a new engine
- New lease for fire engine
- Station repairs
- New protective equipment
- Open Station Two

Police

- Added 4 new- restoring to prior numbers
- New vehicles
- New body armor
- Security updates
- Bicycle safety
- Narcan

Elder services

- 2 additional staff
- building improvements
- site improvements
- return of the senior picnic

DPW

- personnel changes
- increased funding for laborers
- increased funding for seasonal help
- replace equipment and vehicles

Building Reserves

- added to stabilization

Strong Financial Standing

- clean audit opinion
- reduced comments
- pension liability funding
- use of free cash

Council President Smart thanked the presenters and asked if there were any comments from the public, to which there were the following responses:

Robert Montgomery Thomas, 848 Washington Street addressed the net school spending, and school funding. He urged the school budget not be increased.

Elizabeth Foster Nolan, 54 House Rock Road noted she is happy to see improvements in the schools. Thrilled to see additional police and fire personnel. Urged continued transparency on both sides. She also noted her disappointment with the public turnout at this evening's meeting.

Robert Montgomery Thomas, 848 Washington Street attempted to bring up Milton finances and the President asked him to not stray from the topic of the town budget presentation.

Arthur Fletcher, 84 Chard St was blown away by the improvements in Weymouth. It has one of the lowest tax rates in all of Massachusetts and it's amazing what they have done with the funding.

A motion was made by Vice President Mathews to close the public hearing on measures 19 051 through 19 069 and was seconded by Councilor. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

OLD BUSINESS

18 126-Measure Amending the Annual Salary of Various Elected and Appointed Officials –*matter laid on the table on January 22, 2019 to an indefinite date. If the matter were taken from the table, debate on the "Report of Committee" will be held during the following meeting.*

A motion was made by Councilor Hackett to take measure 18 126 off the table and was seconded by Councilor Haugh. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the Town Council has been scheduled for Monday, June 3, 2019.

At 9:33 PM; there being no further business, a motion was made by Vice President Mathews to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Councilor Haugh.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ATTACHMENTS: Project Updates, FY2020 Budget Presentation

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Michael Smart as President of the Town Council

Voted unanimously on 3 September 2019