

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
Town Hall Council Chambers  
February 21, 2023, Tuesday**

Present: Michael Molisse, Chairman  
Christopher Heffernan, Vice Chairman  
Pascale Burga, Councilor  
Maureen Kiely, Councilor  
Greg Shanahan, Councilor

Also Present: Brian Connolly, Town Auditor  
Chief Richard Fuller, WPD  
David Tower, DPW Business Manager

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chair Molisse called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

**23 001-Fiscal Year 2021 Financial Statements and Management Letter**

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on January 17, 2023. The committee reviewed it but neglected to take a vote although the Town Council voted to accept the report at the February 6, 2023 meeting.

Councilor Burga motioned to forward the measure to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action, and was seconded by Councilor Heffernan. Unanimously voted.

**23 005-Reserve Fund Transfer-Unpaid Bill**

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on. Brian Connolly presented the request; that the Town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$82.24 from the Reserve Fund for the purpose of paying the following unpaid bill:

Commission on Disabilities Recording Secretary  
Patricia Fitzgerald  
Invoice #April 12, 2022

Furthermore, that the Town Accountant is hereby authorized to pay such bills.

Councilor Burga motioned to forward the measure to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action, and was seconded by Councilor Heffernan. Unanimously voted.

**23 006-Police Line Item Transfer for Overtime Expenses**

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on. Chief Richard Fuller presented the request; that the Town of Weymouth transfer a total of \$330,000 as

delineated below for the purpose of covering the projected overtime expenses in the Weymouth Police Department:

\$250,000 from Police Department Uniform Salary  
\$80,000 from Police Department Tech Support

To the following line items:

\$150,000 to Uniform Overtime  
\$80,000 to Tech Support Overtime  
\$100,000 to Uniform Program Overtime Training

Chief Fuller pointed out that this is a proactive request. Halfway through the year, they year start projecting what's needed to get through the year. He reviewed each of the lines to justify the need. (During this; Councilor Kiely arrived; 6:50 PM.) This transfer request should be sufficient to get through the year.

The Chief reported his staffing complement. One member is on fulltime active military duty; hired 17 employees were hired (25 over the last few years). He noted there are of 122 in total; one is going out next month. 4 new trainees have completed training and others are just starting training. Compared to other locals, Weymouth is doing well, and there no issues with the trainees.

Councilor Burga pointed out she is pleased with the department's staffing level.

Councilor Burga motioned to forward the measure to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action, and was seconded by Councilor Kiely. Unanimously voted.

**23 007-Water Retained Earnings-Meter Replacement and Water Audit**

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on. David Tower, DPW Business Manager presented the request; that the Town of Weymouth raise and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund's Retained Earnings for the purpose of funding the costs associated with water meter replacement program & water audit.

Mr. Tower reported this measure will help to chase down unaccounted water. One contributing factor is large meters. Most now are over their useful life. There is a 6-mo lead time in ordering, due to equipment shortages. The town has over 500 large meters, estimated at a cost of \$650,000 at today's price. He expects to see a 10% increase in next bid round. These funds are to start the process.

Councilor Burga pointed out that it's great the town is taking measures. She asked if residences use the large pipes. Mr. Tower responded that there are 15,000 pipes in residences; the rest are commercial. South Shore Hospital has a 6" pipe that is due to be replaced. They will do a shutdown next month, and they'll take advantage to replace the pipe then. Most meters are less effective as they age, and will start under-registering, so

the department encourages changeouts. 3-4" meters are mostly in apartment buildings where there is higher demand at peak times. They will get in during off-hours to change them out, and residential homes are changed out when there is a sale on the property, or encouraged when there are changes to the usage that they see in billing. In those cases, they send a letter to the resident to encourage the meter be changed. If the resident doesn't respond, they might send out a bill based on a 30-unit estimated reading, and the resident would typically call because they don't want to pay a higher than usual bill. The DPW averages 7 meters swapped per day in residential properties.

Chair Molisse pointed out that the aggressive program in residential properties seems to be working.

Councilor Shanahan agreed; he is happy to see the department be proactive. Will they have all of the inventory in place within 6 months? Mr. Tower responded that some is in inventory and some will be obtainable within the 6 months. They ordered 500 from distributor in August and just got them. Depending on inventory, they will work through the backlog. This is a start. It will take 1-2 years to get through all. Councilor Shanahan asked if the town will realize the benefit? Mr. Tower responded, absolutely. Problematic ones will be the first focus, and then they plan to get through all.

Councilor Kiely asked if there is a benefit to using the MassSave program- are there any proactive moves to encourage it with customers and does it make a difference? Mr. Tower responded that anything will help. The town underwent the program in the 1980's, and at the time they saturated homes. Today, most fixtures purchased have water-saving measures. He encouraged using MassSave, but most residents today are going after it mostly for heating oil and insulation.

Councilor Burga motioned to forward the measure to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action, and was seconded by Councilor Kiely. Unanimously voted.

## ADJOURNMENT

At 7:02 PM, there being no further business, a motion was made by Councilor Heffernan to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Burga.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Michael Molisse as Budget/Management Committee Chairman  
Voted unanimously on 6 March 2023