

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
May 2, 2022, Monday

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

Also Present: Ted Langill, Chief of Staff
Richard McLeod, Town Solicitor
John MacLeod, Director of Asset Management
Kenan Connell, DPW Director

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chair Molisse called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

22 060-Borrowing for Road/Sidewalk Improvements

Chief of Staff Ted Langill and DPW Director Kenan Connell reviewed this measure. It was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on April 19, 2022; requesting that the Town of Weymouth appropriate the sum of \$5,000,000 to pay costs associated with repairing and reconstructing town road and sidewalks, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, § 7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and that the Mayor is authorized to contract for and expend any grants, aid, or gifts available for this project; and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

This measure requires a legal notice, public hearing and two-thirds vote of all members of the Town Council in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, §1. This need is #1 on the 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Plan.

This is the 4th borrowing authorization the town has undergone in this administration, appropriating over \$30 million, between several funding sources, for roads and sidewalks.

Mr. Connell added that the gas company has been pursued to do their fair share as well, and has successfully worked with the town. It's been a pretty aggressive program in town. A lot of work is going on in North Weymouth- North, Neck Green Streets, etc., but it isn't the only area under focus. Chair Molisse asked the status of the project on Summer Street. Mr. Connell responded that they met with the utility company last week. They are responsible for about half of the work there, and they have several different projects there. They should be done by July. Councilor Shanahan asked if they aren't doing the same work over in areas. Mr. Connell responded that they aren't duplicating work, but there are different transmission lines that specialty crews are required to manage. Mr. Langill added that they were told they couldn't do any more work until they met with the administration. Vice Chair Heffernan brought up work being conducted during off hours. Mr. Connell responded that it was likely emergency work.

Councilor Shanahan asked if the same work is being done twice? Mr. Connell stated that different work is going on- it seems to be, but not duplicating. Service and transmission lines- two different projects. Good to get the work done, but frustrating. Told they couldn't do work until they met with town. Their schedule changed as a result. Chair Mollisse asked if there was a list of work. Mr. Connell noted the list included work already underway. The schedule is adjusted as needed, and they are aggressively attacking the worst roads. Dozens are up for consideration. The town is going out to bid for 3-year contract for the next group.

Vice Chair Heffernan motioned to forward measure 22 060 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action, and was seconded by Councilor Shanahan. Unanimously voted 3-0.

22 061- Free Cash for Road/Sidewalk Improvements

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on April 19, 2022; requesting that the Town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$1,000,000 from Free Cash to an 02 fund account for the purpose of funding costs associated with road and sidewalk improvements. This need is #1 on the 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Plan. This amount will be from the HCA portion of Free Cash and be used toward North Weymouth road improvements.

Vice Chair Heffernan motioned to forward measure 22 061 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action, and was seconded by Councilor Shanahan. Unanimously voted, 3-0.

22 062- Collective Bargaining Reserve Fund

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on April 19, 2022, requesting that the Town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$200,000 from Free Cash and \$500,000 from the FY22 Reserve Fund into an 02 fund account for the purpose of funding Fiscal Year 2023 expenses associated with ratified Collective Bargaining Agreements.

Councilor Burga arrived, at 6:13 PM.

Mr. Langill reported that 5 of 7 collective bargaining units haven't settled contracts due to expire on June 30th. This will create a separate reserve fund to start those negotiations. Funds will not be limited to this, or any amount, but will offset what they do settle. There are \$20 million in salaries impacted. Each 1% increase equates is a \$200,000 impact.

Vice Chair Heffernan motioned to forward measure 22 062 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action, and was seconded by Councilor Shanahan. Unanimously voted, 4-0.

22 063- Free Cash for Smelt Brook Walkway

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on April 19, 2022, requesting that the Town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$250,000 from Free Cash into an 02 fund account for the purpose of funding costs associated with the improvements to the walkway along the Smelt Brook daylighting project in Weymouth Landing. This need is #46 on the 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Plan.

John MacLeod, Director of Asset Management reported that this is the second phase of the work to daylight the Smelt Brook, and this work entails completing the walkway, installing interpretive signage, lighting and landscaping to connect the park to Washington Street. The work will begin as soon as possible and completed this summer.

Vice Chair Heffernan motioned to forward measure 22 063 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action, and was seconded by Councilor Shanahan. Unanimously voted, 4-0.

22 064- Free Cash for Wharf Street Remediation

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on April 19, 2022, requesting the Town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$140,000 from Free Cash into an 02 fund account for the purpose of funding costs associated with additional remediation at the former Wharf Street incinerator site.

Mr. Langill and Mr. MacLeod explained the request. \$90,000 was appropriated for the engineering work and the project came in higher than the authorization. \$140,000 is required to continue remediation. Work progressed slower than anticipated when hazardous waste was found in some of the materials, that could not be disposed of in MA. The nearest accepting facility is in NH, but DEP determined in the fall how much the NH site could accept from each state and then shut down and was then on a month-to-month wait. The alternative is a site in OH that involves trucking costs. There is also 70,000 gallons of water in the site that had to be tested. It was determined not to be a hazard and they are determining the best course to dispose of or disperse it. They may need to set up filtration to possibly disperse on site. The project is going slower than they anticipated and the final piece is the open space.

Vice Chair Heffernan motioned to forward measure 22 064 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action, and was seconded by Councilor Shanahan. 4-0

22 065- Free Cash for IT Network Switches

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on April 19, 2022, requesting the Town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$71,636 from Free Cash into an 02 fund account for the purpose of funding costs associated with upgrading network switching technology. This need is #36 on the 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Plan.

IT Director Rothman was away on personal business and Mr. Langill explained the project. The funding will be used to replace 15-20-year old switches to improve connectivity enhance network security at the McCulloch, Fire and Police Departments and consolidating several smaller ones.

Councilor Kiely arrived, at 6:25 PM.

Vice Chair Heffernan motioned to forward measure 22 065 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action, and was seconded by Councilor Shanahan. Unanimously voted, 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:26 PM, there being no further business, a motion was made by Vice Chair Heffernan to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Shanahan. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Attachment:

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Michael Molisse as Budget/Management Committee Chairman
Voted unanimously on 6 June 2022