

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
Town Hall Council Chambers  
May 4, 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

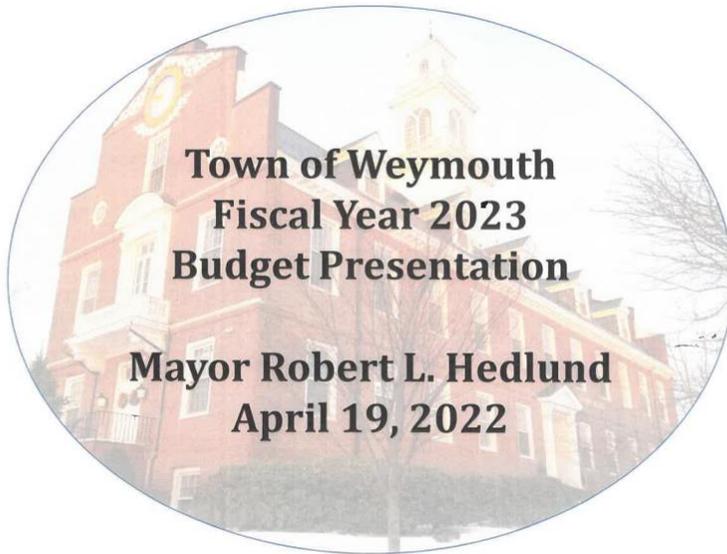
Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chair Molisse called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. An updated statement of revolving account balances was provided.

22 066 I was taken out of order to accommodate Mr. MacLeod's schedule.

This proposed budget includes step and 3% COLA adjustments as well as restoring the salary steps withheld during COVID. Each step is about 3.2%. Many of the bargaining units have not settled contracts expiring on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The budget includes a new position that will be used to manage the usage and rental of the town facilities (including the 850-seat state-of-the-art auditorium at the Chapman Middle School). It will generate revenue for the town and is to be a joint venture between town and schools. This person will be responsible for seeing that it's maintained, and anyone who uses it is trained. The High School stage and planetarium will also come under this umbrella. It's a full time, 40-hour position that pays \$118,000 salary. Chair Molisse commented that the town is lucky to have this equipment- a lot of towns don't, and good that it will generate revenue. He noted there is more overtime use. Mr. MacLeod responded that they added to building maintenance and parks staff. There is a custodian assigned to parks, and two split between parks and building maintenance, depending on the needs that day. DPW now has a lesser role.

Mr. Langill resumed his review of the budget with a slide presentation, and responded to questions following it.



**FISCAL RECOVERY (COVID)**

REVENUE	FY19 Budget	FY19 Actual	FY20 Budget	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budget	FY21 Actual
Tax Levy	\$106,645,984	\$104,778,386	\$111,469,613	\$108,797,853	\$115,222,950	\$114,792,628
Local Receipts	\$ 15,104,655	\$ 17,458,948	\$ 15,226,580	\$ 14,655,819	\$ 14,746,555	\$ 14,757,908
Local Receipts - Transfers	\$ 8,563,326	\$ 8,320,791	\$ 8,440,161	\$ 8,173,362	\$ 8,294,447	\$ 7,677,051
Cherry Sheet (State Aid)	\$ 38,334,332	\$ 38,772,275	\$ 39,309,178	\$ 39,011,173	\$ 39,309,178	\$ 38,589,642
<b>BUDGETED Revenue</b>	<b>\$168,648,297</b>	<b>\$169,330,400</b>	<b>\$174,445,532</b>	<b>\$170,638,207</b>	<b>\$177,573,130</b>	<b>\$175,817,230</b>
<b>Actual % of Budget</b>		<b>100.4%</b>		<b>97.8%</b>		<b>99.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL Revenue</b>		<b>\$172,749,300</b>		<b>\$173,214,704</b>		<b>\$178,910,730</b>
<b>Actual % of Budget</b>		<b>102.4%</b>		<b>99.3%</b>		<b>100.8%</b>

Through March, 72.3% of budgeted FY22 revenues have been collected, ahead of the pace in FY21 and FY20.



## FY23 BUDGET

FY23 Operating Budget    **\$190,306,660**

FY23 Revenue Sources

Tax Levy	<b>\$126,255,447</b>	66.3%	of budgeted revenue
Local Receipts/Transfers	<b>\$23,460,781</b>	12.3%	of budgeted revenue
Cherry Sheet (State Aid)	<b>\$40,590,432</b>	21.3%	of budgeted revenue

Outside of Tax Levy

    FY23 Debt Exclusion    **\$4,518,237**

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## BUDGET GROWTH

FY23	FY22	FY21	FY20	FY19
\$190,306,660	\$183,576,870	\$177,573,130	\$174,445,532	\$168,648,297
3.7%	3.4%	1.8%	3.4%	4.0%

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## Reliance on Tax Levy/New Growth

### Revenue Sources as % of Total Revenue

	<u>FY23</u>	<u>FY17</u>
Tax Levy	66.3%	62.6%
Local Receipts/Transfers	12.3%	13.5%
Cherry Sheet (State Aid)	21.3%	23.9%

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## FY23 Budget – Expense Factors

### **PERSONNEL**

- 3% non-union COLA and Step Increases
- Restored Salary Step not giving in COVID Budget - No Non-Union Raises in FY21
- Non-school personnel costs accounted for \$1.5 million or 23% of new budget growth
- School payroll expenses are increasing by \$2.4 million
- Combined, total personnel increases account for nearly 60% of new budget growth

**Note: Some collective bargaining agreements have not been settled for FY23, including Teachers, Police Patrolmen, Firefighters, and DPW workers.**

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## FY23 Budget – Expense Factors

### **FIXED COSTS**

**HEALTH INSURANCE** costs are budgeted to increase by \$1.15 million, nearly 5%, over FY22. This alone consumes 17% of new budget revenue. A significant portion of this increase is due to an increase in the number of school employees.

**STATE ASSESSMENTS** have increased significantly again. These costs include assessments for the MBTA, Norfolk County, mosquito control, and charter school tuition. Based on initial Cherry Sheet estimates, FY23 state assessments are increasing by 8% or \$550,000.

The Weymouth Retirement Board sets the funding schedule for the Town's annual **PENSION AND RETIREMENT** costs. For FY23, the payment increased by 3.8% or \$468,645.

These fixed costs alone account for more than \$2 million or about a third of new budget growth, limiting the new revenue available for department needs and priorities.

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## FY23 Budget – Expenses

<b><u>TOTAL BUDGET GROWTH</u></b>	<b>\$6,729,790</b>	
	45%	\$3,034,156 School Department
	32%	\$2,172,850 Health Insurance, State Assessments, Retirement Costs
	23%	\$1,539,455 Town Departments

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## FY22 WATER/SEWER BUDGET

	FY21 <i>Actual</i>	FY22 Budgeted	FY22 <i>Actual</i>	FY23 Budget
Enterprise Fund	<i>Expenditures</i>	Expenditures	<i>Expenditures</i>	<b>Proposal</b>
WATER	\$9,392,486	\$9,898,655	\$5,964,453	<b>\$10,181,394</b>
SEWER	\$17,040,324	\$17,698,098	\$14,577,165	<b>\$17,887,266</b>

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## FY22 CPC BUDGET

	FY22 BUDGET	FY23 BUDGET	VARIANCE
<b>ESTIMATED REVENUE</b>			
1% Surcharge	\$860,000	\$900,000	\$40,000
State Match	\$195,000	\$350,000	\$155,000
Investment Income	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Interest and Penalties	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,059,000</b>	<b>\$1,254,000</b>	<b>\$195,000</b>
<b>BUDGETED EXPENDITURES</b>			
Admin Costs (Max 5%)	\$52,950	\$62,700	\$9,750
Open Space and Recreation	\$105,900	\$125,400	\$19,500
Historic Preservation	\$105,900	\$125,400	\$19,500
Affordable Housing	\$105,900	\$125,400	\$19,500
Debt Service	\$88,850	\$0	-\$88,850
Unreserved	\$599,500	\$815,100	\$215,600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,059,000</b>	<b>\$1,254,000</b>	<b>\$195,000</b>

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## Facilities and Fields Enterprise Fund

### FACILITIES AND FIELDS ENTERPRISE FUND Fiscal Year 2023

REVENUE		COST CENTER (Expenses)	
Legion	\$ 45,000.00	Building/office supplies	\$ 1,000.00
Lovell 1	\$ 90,000.00	Turf Maintenance (Supplies)	\$ 10,000.00
Lovell 2	\$ 90,000.00	Irrigation Maintenance (Contract)	\$ 32,000.00
Lovell 3	\$ 84,800.00	Field Equipment and Materials	\$ 10,000.00
Libby	\$ 31,000.00	Employee Laborer (FT Attendant)	\$ 38,000.00
WHS	\$ 28,000.00	Attendant (part time labor)	\$ 20,000.00
Sponsorships	\$ 5,500.00	Electric	\$ 36,000.00
Stella Tirrell	\$ 4,000.00	Retained earnings / Capital Fund	\$231,300.00
<b>Total anticipated revenue</b>	<b>\$378,300.00</b>	<b>Total anticipated expense</b>	<b>\$378,300.00</b>

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## Capital Measures

<p>FY23 Budget Measure - 22_081 Free Cash for Park Maintenance</p> <p>FY23 Budget Measure - 22_082 Free Cash for WPS Curriculum</p> <p>FY23 Budget Measure - 22_083 Free Cash for WHS Planetarium Upgrades</p> <p>FY23 Budget Measure - 22_084 Free Cash for WPS Passenger Vans</p> <p>FY23 Budget Measure - 22_085 Free Cash for WPS WHS Security Cameras</p> <p>FY23 Budget Measure - 22_086 Free Cash for WPS CTE Equipment</p> <p>FY23 Budget Measure - 22_087 Free Cash for WPS Music Instruments</p> <p>FY23 Budget Measure - 22_088 Free Cash for DPW Front-Line Truck</p> <p>FY23 Budget Measure - 22_089 Free Cash for DPW Refurbish Heavy Equipment</p> <p>FY23 Budget Measure - 22_090 Free Cash for Recreation Passenger Vans</p>	<p>FY23 Budget Measure - 22_091 Free Cash for Path Lighting at Weston Park</p> <p>FY23 Budget Measure - 22_092 Free Cash for Senior Center Improvements</p> <p>FY23 Budget Measure - 22_093 Free Cash for WFD Protective Bunker Gear</p> <p>FY23 Budget Measure - 22_094 Free Cash for Upgrading Fire Alarm Communications</p> <p>FY23 Budget Measure - 22_095 Free Cash for WFD Station Generator</p> <p>FY23 Budget Measure - 22_096 Free Cash for WFD Dispatch Software</p> <p>FY23 Budget Measure - 22_097 Free Cash for WPD Police Cruisers</p> <p>FY23 Budget Measure - 22_098 Free Cash for WPD Replacement of Tasers</p>
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Mr. Langill noted that the Health Department budget is slightly underbudgeted. HR works hard during open enrollment to move people to slightly less expensive coverage, and there are more participants than a year ago. The Health insurance trust fund usually has a surplus to keep increases limited. Chair Molisse asked how much of the total is school side? Mr. Langill responded it is 55/45 split between departments. It's driven both by the market and staffing levels.

Overlay is at the same level since FY19 and he is keeping an eye on it. Fiscal years 2017 and 2018 were lower, but increasing the last few years. It is concerning, but he will wait one more year to see if it trends the same. There is a little room, but it may need to be increased next year.

Revolving and Gift accounts –Mr. Langill noted a typo in field permit in the budget book; it should read 50/50. Fields includes only grass fields. Current balances were provided as of April 8, 2022 in a handout.

OPEB trust fund- It has been consistent, other than the COVID year. It's grown over the years to \$5.8 million. The liability is over \$450 million, so this is just over 1% of the liability. They have started the conversation to see if it is feasible to bond the liability and he is looking into it. Almost every other municipality is in the same position, but Weymouth established the trust fund and continues to build on it.

Debt Service- this represents the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of it. When we went out to bond, credit rating and interest rates were favorable, and the stabilization has grown, so that bids came in low. They came in lower than projected and saved over \$1 million on the exemption. Timing of future borrowing may impact it, but there is still room to do other things going forward.

State and County Assessments- this year it's a fairly modest increase. It will be part of the cherry sheets and it includes the Charter School tuition and the bond payment for South Field. It will be part of the cherry sheets when they're finalized.

Insurance-Previously property liability insurance was a line item in the Mayor's budget, but as it's grown, it's been moved it to its own line to better track it. This amount may not be enough, but is a start to funding it. They will have to grow it over the years. Mr. Langill did learn today from MIAA that some of the coverage may be less than what they are used to. He will explore any competitors out there if that coverage changes too much. He noted that we are better protected as a town than they were in the past.

Town Council- COLA and union step restoration are included, and also funding for a full-time Auditor. A stipend was added for staff to attend night and weekend meetings.

Mayor's Office- the assessment for Wey-Bra (48%)- this is shared funding with Braintree and includes 3 employees. The other increase covers a change in responsibilities and salary for the vacancy of one assistant in the office. It will be more of an outreach responsibility, and will include revamping the website. There are decreases in other expenses to offset the increase.

Municipal Finance – this budget represents under 2% increase and the majority are union and contracts not settled. There are other decrease to offset CBA increases. He explained the Medicare line (reimbursement) for the chair.

Solicitor- redistributed and decreased expenses to cover increase. Compressor charges will continue- last 4 years without including 123, 79, 300, 170 – 18-

Information Services- 3.8% increase in salaries. The program manager was brought over (previously from schools and split with comcast account).

Planning & Conservation- only increase is in non-union employees.

CIP- priorities in FY23 are included in the measures.

U-increase- this is a 1% real estate tax surcharge collection, with the first \$100,000 of value exempt. There is an increase in state match, and he hopes it continues. Chair Molisse asked if any potential projects are under consideration. Mr. Langill responded that there is a lot of funding- free cash, HCA and ARPA, and they will begin to meet soon to start finalizing projects. It may include one of the parks (Beal's). The Emery purchase is complete, so they could utilize borrowing.

Veterans Services- the increase in expenses is for flags. There were also personnel adjustments to address the inequity with department heads. (there are two others in the budget for the same reason.) Veterans, Parks & Rec, Youth & Family Services and Elder Services department heads were all adjusted to make the department

head equitable to the rest of the town's departments. Councilor Kiely added that she stayed involved with Elder Services during COVID- these departments do most of the town's outreach.

*Human Resources*-was significantly increase to cover 3 non- union employees, and to create a paid intern program for next year. Six will be hired and used in different departments. Caroline LaCroix will go out to Bridgewater State to market the program. He anticipates the hardest thing will be to find space. The town has used interns in the past. Funding is \$18,600 for this program.

Licensing- any increase is attributed to personnel costs. One position was modified from part to full time, and the administrative assistant position was reclassified in line with other departments.

Chair Molisse suggested they look at adjusting the fees. Mr. Langill responded that they started this last year, and they have a good starting point. There isn't a single place to see what the fees are. Fees aren't set up to create revenue. He will review before the fiscal year starts. The cost to provide docs exceed the fees collected, and they haven't been adjusted in this administration's 7 years. Receipts are flat because fees haven't been adjusted for many years. Councilor Kiely commended the departments, and commented they were not sure where things would stand with COVID. Mr. Langill responded that the town came through COVID in better shape than most towns because of good fiscal planning. Growth in the budget was fairly consistent year to year, excluding the COVID one.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 6:59 PM, there being no further business, a motion was made Vice Chair Heffernan to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Kiely. Unanimously voted.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

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