

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
ZOOM # 849 0064 2230
DECEMBER 21, 2020**

Present: Michael Molisse, Chairman
Jane Hackett, Vice Chairman
Pascale Burga, Councilor
Christopher Heffernan, Councilor
Maureen Kiely, Councilor

Also Present: Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
Joe Callanan, Town Solicitor
James Malary, Director of Municipal Finance
Keith Stark, WFD Chief

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

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

20 118-Appointment / Contract of Town Auditor

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on December 7, 2020. Chair Molisse reviewed the contract terms for an extension of the auditor's contract for another year. Mr. Swanson reported that he looks forward to another year working with the Council.

A motion was made by Councilor Hackett to forward measure 20 118 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Heffernan.

A roll call vote was taken:

Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice Chair Hackett- Yes, Chair Molisse- Yes.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

20 119-Purchase of a New Fire Engine and New Ladder Truck

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on December 7, 2020. Fire Chief Stark presented the request for \$1,778,906, for two pieces of equipment for the department. He explained that the department is in need of new apparatus. The current equipment ranges from 1994-2018. With the compressor station adding risk to the town, the department's mission is to increase public safety. The department is experiencing out of service issues-he noted that two pieces are out for repairs with the manufacturer and he hopes to get them back shortly. It's a never-ending battle with the apparatus. Department of Public Works/Central Maintenance helps out as they can. He is fortunate to work with Peirce, which has two trucks ready except for some modifications, so they won't have to

wait for them to be built. He sacrificed some things in order to get them quickly, although it is not exactly what they wanted. The department borrowed 2 trucks from Boston so they can maintain 4 front line pieces, and 3 spare backup pieces. When a backup breaks down it's difficult to manage the 3/1 front line, but they are able to reach out to other communities and Boston accommodated. They are trying to maintain what they have.

Chair Molisse responded that he's sure the loaners aren't the greatest. He also noted that there was a glitch in advertising, so the public hearing will be held on January 4, 2021. Vice Chair Hackett asked the Finance Director to speak to the funding source. Mr. Malary responded that the funds are currently available in the stabilization fund that will eventually be replaced with money from the compressor station. It's presently in the Mayor's account; however it isn't available for appropriation because it was not factored in the tax rate. It will be available in later 2021 when it falls to free cash (FY2022) and may be appropriated to the stabilization fund then if the Mayor chooses to do so.

Councilor Burga asked about truck maintenance. The Chief responded that the DPW conducts the basic maintenance, but these trucks are specialized and so major work has to be outsourced. These trucks will have warranties. Weekly checks are conducted on all apparatus; DPW does oil and filter checks twice a year. It is basically reactionary maintenance. WFD crews examine the fleet each day and send work orders to DPW- when they add up, they send over. They did have a mechanic on WFD, but when the maintenance function was centralized, it all went to the DPW. They do have a good relationship.

Councilor Burga asked if this is the best way to maintain the apparatus? The Chief responded that there are better ways, but it comes down to money and staffing. They are in negotiations with Local 1616, and language is included regarding a mechanic. The trucks are expensive and with newer pieces there is not as much maintenance. If they can keep the fleet semi-modern, they can keep maintenance and repair costs down.

Auditor Swanson asked if the Chief considered leasing instead of outright purchase. The Chief responded that it is cheaper to buy outright than to tie up in 5-7-or 10-year leases.

A motion was made by Councilor Hackett to forward measure 20 119 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action, pending the outcome of the public hearing, and was seconded by Councilor Heffernan. Councilor Kiely suggested it is difficult to see a Boston piece of equipment in use in Weymouth. She supports the measure but they need to look long-term at the ability to better maintain equipment or keep a mechanic on staff.

A roll call vote was taken:

Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice Chair Hackett- Yes, Chair Molisse- Yes.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:01 PM, there being no further business, a motion was made by Councilor Hackett to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Kiely.

A roll call vote was taken:

Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice Chair Hackett- Yes, Chair Molisse- Yes.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Michael Molisse as Budget/Management Committee Chairman
Voted unanimously on 19 January 2021