

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
ZOOM # 825 3416 0948  
January 4, 2021, Monday**

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

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

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chair Molisse called the meeting to order at 7: 17 PM, with all members present.

**20 120-Reserve Fund Transfer – COVID Testing Expenses**

The measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on December 21, 2020 Mayor Hedlund in partnership with South Shore Health started a testing site for residents. It's set up in the parking lot at WHS and should be funded through the CARES Act with FEMA.

When the measure was filed, the CARES Act had not been extended yet. The measure for \$238,000 represents what the town may expect to pay, beyond what the CARES Act will cover. It will be set aside for non-reimbursable items.

Vice Chair Hackett asked how much of the reserve fund will be used for testing? Mr. Langill responded this measure is for \$238,000. A special reserve was set up for COVID expenses with the \$1.5 million that was in reserve. Vice Chair Hackett asked why appropriate further if that money is available? Mr. Langill responded because the town agreed to appropriate any spending from it. When the COVID reserve was established it eliminated the reserve balance \$1.5 million was depleted for it. The measure adds an additional \$238,000 if needed. None of the \$1.5 million has been spent yet. They can deficit spend for the CARES Act. The testing is set up with funding for the first 3 months of testing, and is renewable after that. The cost of the first month is \$1.35 million. Every month after would be another \$450,000.

The vice chair asked why not just withdraw the measure? Mr. Langill responded that it may still be needed and they will exhaust the CARES Act and the FEMA funding first. Funds will be in an 02 account- it doesn't fall to free cash and could be transferred back before the end of the year. The testing site can transition to a vaccine site.

Auditor Swanson pointed out that the measure indicates the money will be put in an operating account (Procurement) and not an 02 account. Mr. Langill responded that is better as it will fall to free cash. The current balance of the reserve fund is \$1.15 million due to payment of a legal bill.

Councilor Kiely asked if this turns from a testing to vaccine site will the request have to come back before Council? Mr. Langill responded that he is unsure of the wording. More has to happen before they know how that will play out.

Solicitor Callanan clarified that the bill was paid to MIAA; not Miyares and Harrington.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hackett to forward measure 20 120 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Heffernan. Vice Chair Hackett thanked South Shore Hospital and Mayor Hedlund for the approach and the work. Chair Molisse and Councilor Kiely echoed the comments and Mr. Langill responded that it was the result of a huge team effort.

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 7:32 PM, there being no further business, a motion was made by Vice Chair Hackett to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Burga. 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 1 February 2021