

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Via Zoom # 830 3376 3148
August 30, 2021, Monday**

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

Absent: Jane Hackett, Vice Chairman

Also Present: Joseph Callanan, Town Solicitor
Robert Luongo, Planning Director
Kathleen Deree, Town Clerk
Leilani Dalpe, Project Manager

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chair Molisse called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

21 013-Municipal Fiber Broadband Master Plan

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on March 1, 2021. Leilani Dalpe presented the request that the Town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$25,000 from the Reserve Fund to a capital project fund for the purpose of funding costs associated with the completion of a Broadband Master Plan to investigate a municipal fiber network. Weymouth is limited in the number of cable servicers. Cable build-out is prohibitive to other providers. As result, residents who want to utilize the same provider for internet and cable have one option. In 2020, the pandemic proved how crucial internet access is. There are several combinations they will look at; both municipal and privately owned. They determined the best way to move forward is to conduct a study to determine a feasible model. It will involve a review of the existing service, a market analysis, resident needs, survey input, staff input, education and outreach, with a future roll out roadmap of cost, funding proposal, sources, maintenance costs, delivery modules and timeline to determine which would be the most effective approach. A final report with the findings and recommendations will be included. In the council packet, there is a sample of the report that was prepared for City of Quincy. They expect Weymouth's will be done along those lines.

Chair Molisse reported that he reviewed the packet. There is definitely an interest from the public. The major complaint is there is no competition for service. He asked if the study will include a plan? Ms. Dalpe responded yes.

Councilor Burga asked if Quincy took action based on the report? Ms. Dalpe responded that they have not decided on a plan yet. Councilor Burga asked if there was any option to co-opt a program with Quincy? Ms. Dalpe responded that they can look into it.

Councilor Heffernan reported that the most common question from residents is why is there only one provider; it's been this way for years. They are looking for diversity of options. This is a good move to explore every opportunity available.

Councilor Kiely reported there is also frustration with the cost of current cable. She looks forward to seeing the outcome and study results.

A motion was made by Councilor Heffernan to forward measure 21 013 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action, and was seconded by Councilor Burga. A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga- Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely- Yes, Chair Molisse- Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

21 104-Conceptual Design Services-Beals Park, North Weymouth

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on June 28, 2021. Planning Director Luongo presented the request that the Town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$30,000 from the Stabilization Fund to a capital project fund for the purpose of funding costs associated with conceptual design services for Beals Park.

This is item #99 on the Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Luongo reported what is included. Conceptual design plans will be developed with input from neighbors, users, potential users and the district councilor. Based on these, they will then come back with a measure requesting funds for plans and specifications, in a two-step process.

Councilor Burga reported that this measure is welcomed with great appreciation. It is a central point in North Weymouth; an underutilized community asset. She is looking forward to seeing a plan and asked Mr. Luongo about the timeline. Mr. Luongo responded that they allotted no more than a 6-month period for this part. COVID will determine how the meetings will take place. Surveys, identify stakeholders, community consensus should take 4-6 months at the most.

Chair Molisse reported this is a great improvement.

A motion was made by Councilor Heffernan to forward measure 21 104 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action, and was seconded by Councilor Burga, pending a favorable public hearing. The public hearing will be conducted during the August 2, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting. A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga- Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely- Yes, Chair Molisse- Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

21 105-Transfer of Funds for Conceptual Design Services Iron Hill Park-Jackson Square

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on June 28, 2021. Mr. Luongo also presented the request that the Town of Weymouth appropriate the sum of \$40,000 from Open Space and Trails Account to a capital project fund for the purpose of funding costs associated with the conceptual design services for Iron Hill Park in Jackson Square. It was noted that this is #101 on the Capital Improvement Plan.

Mr. Luongo noted that this is a similar concept as Beals. The Iron Hill project is a little more complicated than Beals. Work will be at the foot of Whitmans Pond dam and is the gateway to the trail. Only two components of the trail need to be finished; the Durante parcel which needs environmental cleanup (MBTA) and the park. He anticipates there will be interpretive signs, parking; this is a little more detailed. It will also include community input. It's also a 4-6 months process. Construction bids are expected to go out in 2022, (with a Fall construction start).

Councilor Kiely reported she is supporting this measure. All of the changes are to active recreation areas; these two are another improvement to passive recreation in town.

A motion was made by Councilor Heffernan to forward measure 21 105 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action, and was seconded by Councilor Burga, pending a favorable public hearing. The public hearing will be conducted during the August 2, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting. A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga- Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely- Yes,, Chair Molisse- Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:50 PM, there being no further business, a motion was made by Councilor Heffernan to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Kiely. A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga- Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely- Yes, Chair Molisse- Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Attachment:

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Michael Molisse as Budget/Management Committee Chairman
Voted unanimously on 20 September 2021