

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
February 19, 2019, Tuesday**

Present: Michael Molisse, Chairman
Jane Hackett, Vice Chairman
Christopher Heffernan, Councilor
Maureen Kiely, Councilor
Brian McDonald, Councilor

Also Present: Brian Connolly, Chief Financial Officer
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
Joseph Callanan, Town Solicitor
Rob McLean, Library Director
Kristy Lockhart, Asst. Director, Library Services
Kenan Connell, DPW Director
David Tower, DPW Business Manager
Steve Reilly, Parks & Recreation Director
Andrew Hultin, Parks & Recreation

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

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

19 008-Feasibility Study for the Construction of the New Chapman Middle School

CFO Connolly presented the measure. A study was required to determine if there was contamination surrounding the underground storage tanks and \$1 million was earmarked for this. After research by John MacLeod, it was determined that it wasn't needed, and that no contamination exists, it was reduced to about \$12,000. MSBA requires the contingency even though funds aren't needed. It is a procedural issue.

Auditor Swanson reported that he reviewed the backup to the measure and verified the figures are correct.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hackett to forward measure 18 008 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Kiely. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

19 009-CPA Preservation of Select Library Items

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on February 11, 2019. Mr. McLean presented the measure with Kristy Lockhart. Ms. Lockhart presented the backup for the measure to conserve the following items:

- Bust of Daniel Webster by John Adams Jackson (1825-1879)
 - Sculptor married to a Weymouth native and lived briefly in Weymouth
- Bust of Maria Weston Chapman by Edmonia Lewis (1844-1907)

- Maria Weston Chapman was born in Weymouth and was a prominent abolitionist
- First professional African-American female sculptor whose works are on display in the Smithsonian
- Bust of Henry Chapman by Anne Whitney (1821-1915)
 - Husband of Maria Weston Chapman and abolitionist
- Bust of Charles Sumner by Anne Whitney (1821-1915)
 - Anne Whitney's work can be found in museum collections throughout the country and her statue of Samuel Adams is in front of Faneuil Hall, Boston
- Bust of William Rufus Gray Bates by William Behnes (1795-1864)
 - William Rufus Gray Bates was son of Joshua Bates, Weymouth native and founder of Boston Public Library
- Mishoon Canoe
 - Dates to 15th century
 - Made of Eastern White Pine
 - Discovered in Great Pond 1965

Mr. McLean reported that the mishoon canoe was formally under stewardship of the Weymouth Historical society. Ownership was transferred by the Mayor to the Library.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hackett to forward measure 18 009 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Heffernan. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

19 010-CPA Matching Funds for Commonwealth Trails Program

Mr. Reilly presented the measure with Mr. Hultin. Mr. Hultin provided a Powerpoint presentation:

Back River Trail Connection at Great Esker Park

- The Back River Trail
 - 5.3 miles of multi-use trail running the length of the Back River, ultimately connecting ten different parks and open spaces
 - completion of a multi-use trail along the Back River was made a goal in the Town's 2001 Master Plan
 - Back River Trail Master Plan prepared for the Town in 2005 by ICON parks design
 - The Back River Trail is an explicit goal of the Town's 2014 Open Space and Recreation Plan
- Recent Investment in the Back River Trail
 - Herring Run Pool Park – 2010
 - Kibby Property – 2016
 - Osprey Overlook Park – 2017
 - Puritan Road Entrance to Great Esker Park – 2018
- Back River Trail Connection at Great Esker Park

- This project seeks to enhance public access to shared natural resources for all residents; to link the Back River's parks and trails as one destination with a common thematic identity for regional audiences; and to educate the public and encourage stewardship of the Back River.
- Key Components of this Project
 - Formalize the Bridge Street entrance to Great Esker Park
 - This project will formalize the Bridge Street Entrance to Great Esker Park, the Town's largest and most unique open space, with new parking of 9 spaces and one handicap bordered by a wood guardrail. Other site amenities include a bike rack, trailhead and bench. These improvements will reflect the other two new entrances at Puritan Road and Osprey Overlook Park. The site of the Bridge Street entrance to Great Esker Park is an uneven gravel lot on MassDOT land currently used informally for parking.
 - Complete the Back River Trail from the Kibby Property to Osprey Overlook Park
 - Connecting the Back River Trail
 - This project will formally connect Great Esker Park, the Kibby Property and Abigail Adams Park to the Back River Trail with formal signage and interpretive panels, completing nearly 2.5 miles of the trail. Way-finding signs and interpretive panels will reflect those found at Osprey Overlook Park, the only park currently signed for the Back River Trail. This project also includes leveraging MassDOT to install a pushbutton crosswalk between Great Esker and Abigail Adams Park, establishing a safe trail connection across Rt. 3A.
- Funding
 - The Town is seeking \$77,428 in CPC funds as the matching grant for a total project cost of \$132,428
 - This cost is based on an estimate prepared for the town by KZLA design firm
 - In September, 2018, the Town was awarded \$50,000 reimbursable grant through the DCR's recreational trails program
 - A \$5,000 donation has been secured from the abutting property, River Way Plaza
- Project Budget
 - Mobilization/demolition
 - Sawcut existing pavement
 - Remove existing bituminous concrete
 - Remove & dispose of existing chain link fencing
 - Clear & grub planting bed
 - Erosion & sediment control

- Fine grading
- Bituminous paving with aggregate base
- Pavement striping
- Wood guardrail (no footings)
- 6' - black vinyl chain link fence
- trailhead sign
- interpretive panel
- wayfinding signs with post & concrete footings
- bike rack with concrete footings
- bench with concrete footings
- planting soil
- shrubs-small
- mulch
- seeding
- helical piers

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hackett to forward measure 18 010 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Heffernan. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

19 011-Water Retained Earnings-GPWTP Emergency Filter Bed Repairs

Director Connell and Mr. Tower presented the measure. The request is for \$1,932,031.84 to complete emergency filter repairs. The carbon filter grid system in the Great Pond Water Treatment Plant failed and Emergency procurement proceedings were begun. The repairs are underway. Bids were close, so they know they got good numbers.

Mr. Connell provided background on the treatment plant and the failure of the filter grid system and how it is being repaired. He reported that at no time was the town's drinking water in jeopardy. The same type of failure happened in other plants using the same materials. Engineers is underway to determine the cause of the failure and the town is reviewing what recourse it has with the manufacturer after the repairs are complete.

Councilor McDonald asked about the life expectancy of the 8-year old plant. Mr. Connell responded that grid failure within eight years would not have been expected. The Town Solicitor is working as are the independent engineers to determine the correct legal avenue to pursue recourse. Councilor McDonald asked what action other plants in the country with similar failures have taken. Mr. Connell responded that the first priority is to get the plant to full action and then address the recourse. He has been doing online research. He invited the councilors to tour the plant with him to see how it operates, in response to Councilor Heffernan's question about the design of the plant.

Vice Chair Hackett noted that this depletes the town's retained earnings. What impact will it have on the other scheduled projects? Mr. Tower responded that other projects may be slower in getting done, and bonding may have to be considered. Chair Molisse asked if the failure had anything to do with the load the plant carries. Mr. Connell

responded that the plant should be able to handle the load. Councilor Kiely asked what the life expectancy is for the filters. Mr. Connell responded that it depends on different things. The carbon filters are being tested to determine what factors may have contributed to their failure.

Auditor Swanson reported that he reviewed the retained earnings and the contracts attached with the measure.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hackett to forward measure 19 011 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Heffernan. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:36 PM, there being no further business, a motion was made by Vice Chair Hackett to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Heffernan. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary.

Approved by Michael Molisse as Budget/Management Committee Chairman
Voted unanimously on 4 March 2019