

TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP - WEDNESDAY EVENING - MARCH 19, 2008

PRESENT: Marshall, Cordeiro, Parella (arrived at 7:20 o'clock PM)
Barboza, and Herreshoff (arrived at 7:05 o'clock PM)

ALSO PRESENT: Diane C. Mederos, Town Administrator
John M. Day, Town Treasurer Day

The Council met in budget workshop session on Wednesday evening, March 19, 2008 in the Town Hall Council Chambers beginning at 7:00 o'clock PM, Council Chairman Marshall presiding:

805 - Human Resources - Various Agencies and Representatives

Council Chairman Marshall informed those present that Town Administrator Mederos recommended level-funding for all agencies and explained that the Council was likely to concur with the recommendation. He further stated that there will be no need for the agencies to speak to the Council if they were satisfied with the Town Administrator's proposal.

Several agencies present expressed their thanks for the grants.

In the matter of the Guiteras Community Group, Kathleen Bazinet of 63 Duffield Road informed the Council that a previous Council provided \$10,000 and in-kind service to the Rockwell playground.

Barboza/Cordeiro - Voted unanimously to appropriate a \$10,000 capital account for this purpose.

Nick Kearney of Striper Moon asked the Council to consider his petition for a grant of \$1,500. He informed the Council that he operates a not-for profit farmer's market on Bradford Street and that the grant would help defray the cost of insurance.

Councilman Barboza noted that the request was unusual and that the Council might ask the opinion of the Town Solicitor prior to taking any action.

Councilwoman Parella expressed concern that many of the businesses operating within the farmer's market are established and that these businesses might subsidize the insurance costs.

801 - Human Services - Edward Carusi, Director

Council Chairman Marshall asked Mr. Carusi if he was in agreement with the recommendation of Town Administrator Mederos with Mr.

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Carusi responding affirmatively. The Council suggested no changes to the budget as recommended.

704 - Fire Department - Robert J. Martin, Chief

Fire Chief Martin reported that he was of the opinion that the budget recommendation as proposed by the Town Administrator was adequate. He also informed the Council that his department averages 9 - 10 calls per day.

Fire Chief Martin further reported that the new protocols for drugs that must be kept on rescue vehicles has resulted in a marked increase in cost (from \$17,000 to \$32,000).

Councilman Barboza suggested that the Council may wish to revisit the "Rescue Stipend" line item (241) should the additional funds be available through the override. He noted that Warren pays a higher stipend than Bristol.

Council Chairman Marshall enquired regarding the "Assistant Fire Marshal" line item increase with Fire Chief Martin noting that this person has seen increased duties in consideration of the submission of complicated building plans from Roger Williams University. He further noted that fee revenues may offset this increase.

501 - Finance, 504 Town Hall Complex, 503 Fixed Charges - Town Treasurer Day

Council Chairman Marshall questioned the salary for the Deputy Treasurer with Town Treasurer Day explaining that Mr. Marshall has a bachelor's degree and is highly qualified for the position.

410 - Town Council

Council Chairman Marshall suggested that the Council might have a line item so as to support grant-writing activities.

Cordeiro/Herreshoff - Voted unanimously to add a new line with \$20,000 "Grant Procurement" for this purpose.

403 - Town Clerk, 407 Municipal Court - Town Clerk Cirillo

The Clerk reported that he found the budget recommendations as proposed by Town Administrator Mederos to be acceptable.

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There being no further business, upon a motion by Councilman Barboza, seconded by Councilman Cordeiro and voted unanimously, the Chairman declared this workshop to be adjourned at 9:40 o'clock PM.

Louis P. Cirillo, CMC, Council Clerk