

**TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP - WEDNESDAY EVENING
MARCH 17, 2010**

PRESENT: Marshall, Cordeiro, Barboza, Parella, and Herreshoff

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

The Council met in workshop session to consider the 2010-2011 Town Budget, on Wednesday evening, March 17, 2010, in the Town Hall, Council Chambers beginning at 7:10 o'clock PM, Council Chairman Marshall presiding:

Town Solicitor - 404 - Michael A. Ursillo, Esq., Town Solicitor

Council Chairman Marshall noted that Town Administrator Mederos level funded this department with Town Solicitor Ursillo responding that he was comfortable with the funding as proposed by Town Administrator Mederos and also that he and his colleagues appreciate working for the Town.

Councilman Herreshoff commended Town Solicitor Ursillo for his "responsiveness and fine service." Councilman Herreshoff also noted that he appreciated Town Solicitor Ursillo's willingness to accept level funding.

The Council made no changes to the amounts as recommended by the Town Administrator.

Human Resources

Several representatives of the various Human Resources "grant" applicants were present; many described their initiatives and most thanked the Council for its past support. The information provided below is related only to those agencies which received consideration for an amount larger than that which was recommended by the Town Administrator.

Women's Resource Center

The Council agreed to consider adding to this appropriation prior to the conclusion of the budget process.

King Philip Little League

Warren Rensehausen, President of the King Philip Little League, reminded the Council that his agency agreed to no appropriation last year in consideration of the economy. He asked that the Council might consider an appropriation of \$1500 since the League lost some of its sponsors. Mr. Rensehausen also informed

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the Council that this year's Little League program has 450 participants.

Town Administrator Mederos noted that if the Council wished to increase the appropriation to \$1500, she would amend her recommendation to that amount also.

The Council, by consensus, agreed to appropriate \$1500 to the King Philip Little League.

Bristol Wrestling

Steve Martel, President of the league, informed the Council that his group is attempting to increase participation and that it currently serves 30 children. He noted that he was new to the job and unaware of the timing of the Town's grant application process.

Council Chairman Marshall suggested that the group might receive a grant of \$1250; an amount equal to last year's funding. Town Administrator Mederos stated that she would also recommend an appropriation of \$1250 for this agency.

Boy Scouts of America

Jonathan Widmark, representing the Narragansett Council BSA, addressed the Council and described his program. He noted that this year is the group's 100th anniversary, and noted that locally the program serves 130 Bristol boys.

Herreshoff/Parella - Voted unanimously to increase the appropriation recommended by Town Administrator Mederos from \$1,400 to \$1,700.

Mosaico CDC

Diana Campbell, program director, noted that Mosaico sponsors its mentoring program, "Sense of Pride," job-training in the marine trades, storefront rehabilitation, and will have a training fair at the High School this year.

Councilman Barboza noted that the park-bench located across the street from the Bristol Sports Club was in need of attention with Ms. Campbell noting that she believes that this bench is the responsibility of the Department of Public Works and not

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Mosaico. Town Administrator Mederos agreed to contact Public Works Director Serbst concerning this matter.

The Council, by consensus, agreed to possibly reconsider this budget later during these deliberations and consider a possible increase.

Bristol Merchants Association

Linda C. Arruda, representing the Bristol Merchants Association, informed the Council that there are now 105 member merchants and noted that a reprint of the Town map is estimated to cost approximately \$5000 this year.

Ms. Arruda explained that the Association's shortfall for this purpose was \$3400 and that she would be contacting Stephan Brigidi as a member of the Newport Bristol Visitors Bureau to determine if funds will become available from that agency for the reprint of the map since the map is a popular tourist guide.

Council Chairman Marshall suggested that Ms. Arruda might work directly with Town Administrator Mederos and Director of Community Development Williamson and also that there may be funds available during this fiscal year and suggested that some funds might be made available through the Council Contingency.

Town Administrator Mederos reported that she is meeting with a representative of the Visitors Bureau and that she would raise the topic of the printing of the merchants map.

Cornerstone Adult Services

Gerry Manning, representing Cornerstone, informed the Council that the agency did not receive support from the CDBG. The Council agreed to consider this matter later in the budget process.

American Red Cross

Bruce Rudder, representing the Red Cross, noted that the agency provides aid to fire and flood victims, has a regular program at the Veterans Home in Bristol, and also trains volunteers for health emergencies and offers disaster planning assistance.

Mr. Rudder noted that the agency's coffers were depleted due to aid provide to the people of Haiti.

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The Council, by consensus, agreed to increase the amount recommended by Town Administrator Mederos from \$500 to \$1500.

Pawswatch

Pawswatch representative Gina Ferrell appeared before the Council and explained her agency's mission of spay/neuter and release. She noted that the feral cat population in Bristol has diminished in recent years and attributed this to the work of Pawswatch.

The Council, by consensus, agreed to reconsider and possibly raise the amount of a grant for this agency prior to the final adoption of the budget.

Literacy Volunteers

Jolene Hamil-Cole, representing the literacy volunteers, appeared before the Council and explained that her agency is in need of some new office furniture. The Clerk reported that the Town was in receipt of some office chairs in good condition and that these were provided to the Town by Roger Williams University. The Clerk noted that there may be more chairs available than the Town can use and perhaps these might be provided to the Literacy Volunteers in lieu of a cash grant.

Ms. Hamil-Cole agreed to contact the Clerk and the Council, by consensus, agreed to reconsider and possibly raise the amount of a grant for this agency prior to the final adoption of the budget.

BVFD Telephone Dialers

Ed Carusi, Director of Human Services and staff member of the dialer program, informed the Council that he has received donations for this program from some of those served and that the program appeared to be going well.

Councilman Barboza reported that there is a small waiting list and that Mr. Carusi's office receives approximately three (3) up to five (5) requests per week. Councilman Barboza suggested that the Council may wish to consider this matter during the current fiscal year and make a special appropriation from the Council Contingency in order to eliminate the waiting list.

The Council instructed the Clerk to prepare a report on the Council Contingency funds for future consideration.

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Save Bristol Harbor

Merritt Meyer represented Save Bristol Harbor. A discussion ensued regarding the Council's previous deliberations concerning the addition of \$15,000 to the budget for LNG opposition.

The Council, by consensus, agreed to establish a new line entitled "LNG Contingency" to the Council's own account and to include the \$15,000 in this account.

Bristol Art Museum

Patricia Woods appeared before the Council and informed its honorable body that the Art Museum is seeking to rehabilitate the "white barn" at Linden Place into a permanent Bristol Art Museum. She noted that the Museum has existed on a part-time basis for over forty (40) years in the Linden Place Ballroom.

The Council agreed to consider a one-time appropriation for the engineering studies regarding this proposal. It was suggested that since the project is already on-going, it may be more appropriate to consider funding up to \$1000 of this cost during the current fiscal year. The Clerk was instructed to add this amount to that which is being considered for expenditure from the current Council Contingency account.

Human Services - 801 - Edward Carusi, Director

Council Chairman Marshall informed Mr. Carusi that the Council was appreciative for his work on behalf of the people of the Town.

The Council made no changes to the amounts as recommended by the Town Administrator.

Finance - 501 - John M. Day, Town Treasurer

Councilman Herreshoff asked to know the salary of the incoming Town Treasurer with Town Treasurer Day responding that the anticipated salary is included in the new budget, replacing his current salary.

A discussion ensued regarding the "dues and conference" line with Town Administrator Mederos reporting that funds for conference attendance for those department heads reporting directly to the Town Administrator are included in the Town

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Administrator's budget. It was suggested that the Town Treasurer's office requires certain professional dues and that the "dues and conference" line should be changed to read "professional dues."

The Council, by consensus, agreed that the amount to be allocated to this particular account should be \$1000.

Debt Service - 502 - John M. Day, Town Treasurer

The Council made no changes to the amounts as recommended by the Town Administrator.

Fixed Charges - 503 - John M. Day, Town Treasurer

The Council made no changes to the amounts as recommended by the Town Administrator.

Civic Services - 605 - John M. Day, Town Treasurer

Town Administrator Mederos noted that the cost of the emergency medical services was not yet available.

Town Administrator Mederos also reported that information on next year's operation of the Visitor Center was not yet available and will be known when the Council conducts its recapitulation of the proposed budget.

Town Hall Complex - 504 - John M. Day, Town Treasurer

The Council made no changes to the amounts as recommended by the Town Administrator.

Municipal Court - 407 - Louis P. Cirillo, Administrator/Clerk

The Council made no changes to the amounts as recommended by the Town Administrator.

Town Council - 401

The Council, by consensus, added \$10,000 to the Annual Budget line for a total of \$30,000 and adjusted the title of the account to "Annual Audit/Financial Statements." It was noted for the record that this account will fund the annual audit and also the new arrangement for the financial statements.

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The Council, by consensus, adjusted the "grant procurement" line, noting that this line was not expended in the past. The line was changed from \$5000 to \$1000.

A discussion ensued regarding the current year's unexpended Contingency Account balance with the Council in agreement that the Clerk's report concerning same should include a reference to the current needs of the BVFD Dialer program and the Bristol Art Museum's request for funding.

The Council made no other changes to the amounts as recommended by the Town Administrator.

Town Clerk - 401 - Louis P. Cirillo, Town Clerk

The Council made no changes to the amounts as recommended by the Town Administrator.

There being no further business, upon a motion by Councilwoman Parella, seconded by Councilman Barboza and voted unanimously, the Chairman declared this workshop to be adjourned at 9:45 o'clock PM.

Louis P. Cirillo, CMC
Council Clerk