

TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP - THURSDAY EVENING - MARCH 22, 2012

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

Also Present: Diane C. Mederos, Town Administrator
Julie Goucher, Town Treasurer

The Council met in workshop session on Thursday evening, March 22, 2012 in the Town Hall, Council Chambers, beginning at 7:10 o'clock PM, Council Chairman Marshall presiding:

406 - Board of Canvassers

Frances C. O'Donnell, Chairman

Ms. O'Donnell reported that the \$5,000 budgeted for redistricting was a one-time expense essentially to provide notice to voters concerning the new polling locations resultant of the decennial legislative redistricting.

The Council made no changes to this departmental budget as recommended by the Town Administrator.

807 - Benjamin Church Senior Center

Maria Ursini, Program Director

Ms. Ursini stated that she was requesting assistance with the center's radio dispatch system since this costs \$66 per month. She added that she "reached out" to the recreation department but that the two systems are incompatible.

Town Treasurer Goucher agreed to study this matter to determine if there was an opportunity to share with other departments.

Ms. Ursini reported that the van expenses are \$3500 per year and that the van travels approximately 7000 miles per year.

Councilman Herreshoff asked to know if the \$3500 includes gasoline with Ms. Ursini responding that this does include gasoline.

Councilman Herreshoff asked to know if any of the budget lines were over with Ms. Ursini responding that the heat account was over.

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Councilman Teixeira asked to have a report on the elevator with Ms. Ursini responding that the elevator's motherboard was repaired by a Massachusetts company "found" by Lombard Pozzi and that the annual cost for elevator maintenance is \$1250 per year.

Councilwoman Parella noted that the Town has several elevators and that it may be worthwhile to have all of these serviced by a single contract. Town Treasurer Goucher agreed to look into this matter.

Ms. Ursini reviewed the senior center program.

Councilman Barboza asked to know if the driver is full-time with Ms. Ursini reporting that Mr. Black works 35 hours per week.

Council Chairman Marshall asked to know the status of the boiler upgrade with Ms. Ursini reporting that Director of Community Development Williamson was able to obtain grant funding to upgrade the boiler.

Councilman Barboza asked to know if the driver has other duties with Ms. Ursini responding that Mr. Black also performs building maintenance functions.

A discussion ensued with Ms. Ursini testifying that Mr. Black gets three weeks vacation and that there is no provision in the budget for a substitute driver.

A discussion ensued regarding possible substitute drivers with no resolution.

The Council agreed, by consensus, to place an asterisk (*) at the salary line in order to further consider the driver's salary and the need for a "back-up" driver.

Councilman Teixeira asked to know if Ms. Ursini needs help with grant writing with Council Chairman Marshall suggesting that Roger Williams University students are providing help with grant writing.

Town Administrator Mederos agreed to follow-up with Peter Wilbur concerning this issue.

Ms. Ursini reported that the Benjamin Church Senior Center, Inc. may not have filed proper paperwork to maintain its non-profit status.

She also reported that typical legislative grants may be in jeopardy.

405 - Boards and Commissions

North and East Burial Grounds Commission

Enzly Ramsay, Superintendent

The Council, by consensus, agreed to make no changes to this budget line as recommended by the Town Administrator.

Personnel Board

The Council, by consensus, agreed to make no changes to this budget line as recommended by the Town Administrator.

Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force

Warren Rensehausen, Representative

Mr. Rensehausen noted that State funding has been reduced and that there are increased requirements for the Task Force.

A discussion ensued regarding a substance abuse report from Mt. Hope High School. Councilman Barboza questioned the report's assertion that heroin is used by students and Councilman Herreshoff stated that the reports of suicidal tendencies was alarming. Mr. Rensehausen stated that the survey resulting in the report was anonymous.

A discussion ensued regarding the Task Force program.

Mr. Rensehausen thanked the Town for providing office space at Reynolds School and requested additional funding for programs. He added that the school department has asked for help and that the funding is not available for this.

Council Chairman Marshall suggested that the Bristol Warren Education Foundation may be of assistance with Ann Marie Roy explaining that the Task Force sought funding from

Roger Williams University but that she was not familiar with the Bristol Warren Education Foundation.

The Council, by consensus, agreed to place an asterisk (*) at this budget line for further consideration later in the budget process.

805 - Human Resources (Recap - Supplemental)

Bristol Wrestling

Denise Asciola informed the Council that she received a telephone call from a representative of Bristol Wrestling informing her that he was "shocked" that the organization had not yet picked up their allocation from 2011-2012.

Council Chairman Marshall suggested that the agency should be allowed its allocation for 2011-2012.

Councilwoman Parella suggested that the agency should be allowed \$1 in the 2012-2013 budget in order to secure a place in next year's budget. The Council agreed to Councilwoman Parella's suggestion by consensus.

Community Development Block Grant (discussion only)

Geraldine Turbeville, Program Manager

A discussion ensued regarding the CDBG application with Ms. Turbeville explaining that the application considers the type of initiatives which "score well" with the granting agency.

Councilman Herreshoff asked to know why the amount is \$298,000 with Ms. Turbeville noting that the grant amount reflects the total of the individual application items.

The Council made no specific suggestions for changes to this application and will consider same at a later meeting.

Barboza/Teixeira - Voted to adjourn this meeting at 8:30 o'clock PM. Voting in favor of this motion were Council Chairman Marshall, Councilman Barboza, Councilman Teixeira, and

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Councilman Herreshoff. Voting
opposed was Councilwoman Parella.

Prior to the vote taken, Councilwoman Parella objected to the early adjournment and stated that she was of the opinion that the early hour allowed for the Council to consider more budget items.

Louis P. Cirillo, CMC, Council Clerk