

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Approved 2/25/13

COUNTY OF NEWPORT

The Town Council of the Town of Tiverton, County and State aforesaid held a Special Meeting on Monday, the 18th day of February 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Tiverton Town Hall, 343 Highland Road at 7p.m..

MEMBERS PRESENT:

**Councilor President Roderick, Vice-President deMedeiros, Councilor Arruda, Councilor Chabot, Councilor Gerlach, Councilor Lambert
Councilor Pelletier was absent**

Town Administrator was also present.

1. Call To Order

Council President Roderick called the Council to order with a pledge of allegiance to the flag and roll call.

Discussion and Possible vote on Fiscal Year 2013/2014 Budget

Town Administrator had provided a budget reconciliation report. At last meeting budget was at \$18,562,974; this pass is at 18,599,062. In Clerk's office reduced digital storage by 2000, added advertising of 20,000, salary of 821, longevity of 655 and election reserve account of 15,000, probate microfilming reduced by 1000, added treasurer

salary 1838, pump out boat 11,662, Assessor mileage less 500, professional services less 2000, dental reduction less 9,688 and GIS Update increase of 1,300 bringing to 18,599,062.

Major piece missing is health care, received new rate Friday and there is an issue, will need to talk to Trust again. Indicated decrease but looks like increase; ongoing item need to look at. Councilor deMedeiros questioned if there was a vote to put the pump out boat back in the budget or just accept the donation of the boat. Councilor Gerlach had requested the Administrator have the Harbor Master put together a new budget based on the new boat to facilitate discussion.

Councilor Roderick questioned the landfill closure reduction by 68,000 prior and now additional 20,000. Health insurance may be less than the \$115,000 reduction. Administrator not sure but assumes will be less than the 115,223 but doesn't affect dental reduction. Street lights haven't spent entire this year and would be reduction under any circumstance. Councilor deMedeiros questioned the reduction in paving. Administrator decrease 10,000 in paving and 10,000 in sand & salt..

Second page addressed a 6 Wheel Dump truck with plow and sander for the DPW at 45,000 for 1 of 5 payments, a defibrillator reduced by 35,000, one police cruiser reduced 25,000, advertising reduced 20,000, code enforcement P.T Clerk reduced 14,810, pump out boat reduced 11,500, landfill closure reduced 20,000 and senior center computer deducted 3,700.

Administrator suggests need to pay attention to the DPW. Have 7 plows and 2 abandoned in place with drive shaft issues in last snow storm. Third plow was fixed. Short time was down to 4 of 7 plows. Equipment is 30 years old, need equipment for DPW. Truck would be 1 of 5 payments, costs 200,000 plus, not exact number will need to talk about financing with Treasurer. Last year had opportunity to get two used vehicles and not recommended by Budget Committee so went by the wayside. Steve Berlucchi added, vehicles rotted out and breaking creating problem with reliability and dependability. Couple of routes not done in snow storm until Monday. Put in three new drive shafts and one rear end; back up to 7 trucks.

Next item recommended was to purchase only one defibrillator this year and another next year. Reduced by 35,000. Reduced police cruisers by one for 25,000 saving. Police Chief stated dead set against, needed to borrow vehicles for snow storm. Went to Bristol and Little Compton to borrow SUV's. Have been wanting to buy two SUV's and one patrol car, needed for steep hills.

Next reduced the zoning rewrite advertising funds of 20,000. Councilor Roderick questioned if scheduled to be done this year. Administrator responded there is no money in budget to do the rewrite so wondering if will be completed and advertising won't be need until following year. Town Clerk opined the Comp Plan and zoning rewrite needs to be completed by December 2014. Was

discussed at prior Council meetings. Budgeted for advertising but Council needs to budget for firm that will actually do the rewrite. Had been given an estimate from Solicitor Teitz whose firm is leading land use firm and he estimates between 30 and 50 thousand. Comp Plan is key, along with zoning and map changes; go hand in hand. Not sure what will require. Each map and zoning ordinances must be advertised three times. Last time one map costs over 1000 to advertise one time. Will take a lot of public hearings, work and time. Should keep in mind money spent on the form based code that has been worked on; will need public hearings and map advertising to see if you're going to bring into zoning. It is Council policy, if not going to do then won't need the advertising. May need to look for money in current budget or wherever to fund RFP for rewrite. Councilor Roderick been discussing for couple of years so need to look at. Clerk informed last time attended a lot of the meetings and takes years. Difficult to do more than one or two public hearings a month. Asked Andy for ball park on number of maps would be advertising, etc all depends on Council's direction. Long process lot of extra meetings and public hearings.

Councilor Gerlach, aside from advertising should we be addressing funding for Comp Plan and zoning rewrite and do we have a sense of cost from last go round. Solicitor estimated, depending on firm, between 30 to 50 thousand would give good rewrite but depends on how much zoning you want to change. Should remember had that zoning meeting on zoning issues and all the money on form based

code. Gerlach questioned if done over two years. Suggests maybe in restricted account if began process and continues over two years. The proposed budget goes to June 2014. Will move at pace the Council sets. Clerk, could take out some advertising and get through some and not all, but don't recommend not doing it. Councilor Roderick been talking about for years. Question when talk of accounts like that perhaps a capital fund that can go beyond first year in restricted account. Will need to speak with Treasurer.

Administrator continued, reluctantly eliminated the code enforcement p/t clerk 14,810 and pump out boat for 11,500. If Council really wants to go forward with boat can wait another year will take a while to get here. Roderick questioned if heard anything on the boat. Goncalo informed the Harbor Master is going to travel to California to view the boat and will contact Harris Gruber's son in law when out there. The donor will pay for his flights. Councilor deMedeiros questioned difference from adding in amount for boat and what took out. Mr. Goncalo responded 162 for FICA and comes from different account and forecast has changed estimated 250 pump outs now at \$5 each for summer and lowered expenses. Councilor Arruda questioned the cost of disposal of the waste being factored in. Administrator responded has two estimates disposing through Standish and possible through our sewer line. That would need hose and connections of about 2500 to 3000 from boat to sewer system. Place would be by Boathouse Restaurant would need to do before open or after closing. Councilor deMedeiros questioned if they know we will

be doing and problem with smell when pumping and opening pump station. Page 13 on budget indicates budgeted 1800 to Standish for pump out fees. Councilor Arruda questioned the 800 for repairs and upkeep when we haven't even seen the boat.

Councilor Gerlach admittedly figures are estimates at best with absence of diagnostic that talked about last time. Don't know condition of boat until seen. Think tough time trying to balance all, part and partial to other night discussion, one thing to get the boat and other thing to fund the boat. Make difficult decision to not go forward and keep out of water as try to address other issues and that was a scenario all well aware of and discussed last time. Goncalo thinking could hold another season, only 11,000 but could use better than on the boat.

Goncalo reduced landfill closing to 50% of funding. Normally 168,000 so another 20,000 reduction would bring to 80,000 and hopefully next year will fund better. Councilor Lambert noted whole issue of landfill closure is budget issue. Numbers proposed by Landfill Comm are based on recommendation of Pare Engineering. All know how funding next year goes. Now underfunding landfill closure by 281,000 assuming Pare Engineering correct. Next step is look for other plans and cost by Landfill Comm. Realistically if continue at this pace will be short $\frac{3}{4}$ million dollars. Need to know this.

Councilor Arruda questioned if the estimate is on top of the PAYT.

Councilor Lambert really three portions to the funding and is exactly where estimated. Bags, additional 168,000 under agreement with DEM and interest accumulating. Now at approximately 5 million dollars. Ms. DuPont on comm had requested that Mr. Ryes provide numbers in landfill account and sale of bags. Currently collected over 2.4 million in sale of bags, annually approximately 468,000. Next hope to find something cheaper than Pare Plan to close landfill.

Councilor Arruda this year are 20,000 plus over estimate so may not hurt as much.. May have some wiggle room in the 20,000 but not the rest. Councilor Roderick when numbers together 168,000 was part of the pot. Need to look at health and safety equipment, code enforcement, comp plan, zoning which we have been dealing with over last 4 years. Recalls the Planner being big part of Comp Plan. Councilor Arruda questioned if job is being advertised. Administrator will be recommending fill full time. Councilor Gerlach raised issue of the budget process for the position. T/A there is funds in this current year to get it going. Councilor Arruda and is also budgeted for next year in this proposed budget.

Councilor deMedeiros hesitant to take out patrol car, safety reasons. Councilor Roderick's current Administrator recommendation is at 3.09 without the health insurance. Were at 3.56% increase. Councilor Chabot this is reason need the capital improvement plan that we've been asking for so will know where we're headed.

Councilor Roderick went through tremendous storm and when realize what was done with equipment had is amazing. Need to find way to budget capital and find way to not spend in one year but in public safety look at 100,000 each year rather than budget this year and next year nothing. Need to find out from Treasurer if can budget capital and have funds go forward.

Request for dump truck, defibrillator and car may be able to look lower cost. But need the long range plan to show if costs will continue through next year. Councilor Arruda if don't fund the police cars this year will never catch up. Mr. Goncalo had 5 year plan on desk. This year departments submitted nearly 4.2 million some of which are payments. 700,000 added in 14/15, 536,000 in 15/16, 1,175,000 in 16/17 and 626,000 in 17/18. Don't know how would fund without infrastructure bond.

Councilor Arruda looking at cutting code enforcement part time and leaving in the assistant Harbor Master.

Administrator stated reason is because he can't be out there every weekend, has asked for it before. Even without pump out boat still need assistant. Councilor Arruda code enforcement seems more crucial than the assistant to Harbor Master. Code problems can turn messy.

Councilor deMedeiros questioned the senior center computer for 3,700 being eliminated. T/A, would make easier to keep track. Janice

Gomes spoke to a major problem with cesspool at center which was pumped on Dec 19, Jan 21 and again Feb 13th. Needed to call in Rowter Rooter and cost is around 600. Had John Lincourt look at it and he feels with the snow and rain filling, will check again.

Councilor Gerlach from timing perspective for budget questioned if would have value to place the 5 year plan on the agenda. Administrator stated has it but hasn't pushed because of where we are with budget and where money would come from. Perhaps come to Council with request take 400,000 out of General Fund. Lot time payments for multiple budgets. Reading from plan stated first item a ladder truck at 980,000, rescue one 240,000 heavy duty rescue replacement 500,000, engine 4 replace at 560,000. Keeps adding up.

Councilor Arruda would be worthwhile to see first and have discussions with department heads and see what can do. Councilor Roderick questioned what over the required amount in general fund. Needs to be 3% over operating budget. Clerk suggests needs 3% minimum, have a Council policy that edges percent up each year which is now over 3%. Administrator stated Charter only requires 3% and are over. Based on last audited figures in audit.

Councilor deMedeiros suggests if put back in the car and defibrillator and remove the rest along with the assistant Harbor Master position will save 72,140. Councilor Arruda requested any answers on the maintenance department items discussed last meeting. Mr. Goncalo

stated in short, Town getting a bargain. Currently pay 2800 for vehicle and would cost 1000 to insure our own so only 1800 for vehicle. Pay for minor maintenance like oil changes, anti-freeze but is new truck so doesn't require much. Also questioned the travel expense and mileage. He gasses up at Highway. Administrator can ask him to keep track of mileage. Have expense of fuel.

Councilor Arruda, need to be on 5 year plan, Maintenance Director could retire at any time and be without truck.

Councilor Gerlach noble to chip away but there are bigger problems facing. Value in 5 year plan regardless of how to fund. Questioned precedent with general fund to address shortfalls. Councilor deMedeiros would need to talk with Budget Committee. Councilor Lambert when took office were in violation and took action to rapidly edge up to the 3%.

Councilor deMedeiros suggests with no carry forwards whether departments could bulk up supplies this year. Clerk reminded departments try to hold off due to unexpected issues that may come up such as the Senior Center with the cesspool problem.

Councilor Roderick feels budget really running very tight even if don't fund some of these capital items. Have to find dollars somewhere, proponent of pump out but will need to go away for now, landfill closure only fooling ourselves; should be the 168,000 but can live with at least the 100,000. Cars and plow really have to look at, may

mean something a little less expensive. Not knowing health premium side could be additional. Total picture percent increase is higher than would like.

Administrator of last 5 or 6 budgets done, this is by far the toughest. Will discuss with possible votes again on Monday's Council agenda.

Councilor deMedeiros motioned to leave dump truck, defibrillator and third police vehicle and the 20,000 for landfill in budget. Removing the assistant Harbor Master, advertising, code enforcement clerk, pump out boat, senior center computer for a saving of approximately 52,000. Seconded by Councilor Lambert, motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Gerlach as far as advertising for zoning rewrite haven't discussed trying to come up with figure for Comp Plan to stick in there, a potential large item and don't have sense of yet. Clerk suggests Solicitor can give better information on Monday. Councilor Roderick taking out at this point but still working on it. Administrator needs to look at again and put tonight's items in budget and changes , this percentage still too high needs hard look.

Sally Black thanked Council for these sessions, difficult process and doing good job.

Councilor Arruda requests rate pay for street lights. Administrator

stated all different rates. Councilor Gerlach requested any progress on analysis of TIF bond. Administrator will ask her to attend Monday night's meeting.

Councilor Roderick thanked all department heads for coming, will take hard look and discuss again on Monday.

At this time Councilor Roderick called for motion to adjourn the Special Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor deMedeiros motioned, seconded by Councilor Chabot to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

A True Copy.

ATTEST:

Nancy L. Mello, Town Clerk