

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
COUNTY OF NEWPORT**

Approved 3/25/13

The Town Council of the Town of Tiverton, County and State aforesaid held a Special Meeting on Saturday, the 9th day of March 2013 at 9:30 a.m. at the Tiverton Town Hall, 343 Highland Road.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Town Administrator James Goncalo and Town Clerk Nancy L. Mello were 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 Votes on Fiscal Year 2013/2014 Proposed Budget

Discussion and Possible Votes on Fiscal Year 2013/2014 Proposed Revenue

Town Administrator Goncalo passed out several updated handouts, General Fund Reserve, Projected Tax Rate, General Fund Revenues and Budget Reconciliation. Reserve funds are estimates; Budget Committee (BC) will be different. Total of \$47,320,325 with a 3% reserve of \$1,419,610, the current reserve is \$1,790,855. The policy adopted by the previous Council, suggest a 3.5% reserve of \$1,656,211. Recommend not touching the difference of \$134,644 between the percentages. Looking at a projected levy of \$36,271,849 excluding Motor Vehicles. Would leave a projected tax rate of \$19.41 or an increase of 42 cents per thousand, impact on an average home \$110 per year. Below the cap by \$485,170 for a projected levy increase of 2.68%. For General Fund Revenues, nothing stands out except an increase in Education Aid; local revenues have no significant increase or decrease. Third Party Rescue Billings projected increase by \$25,000 however interest on late tax payments decrease by the same amount. President Roderick questioned Town Fees-Town Share going down to \$500 from \$68,000. T/A Goncalo broke that down into Inspection Fees, an overall 3.6% increase, going from \$9.3 to 9.6 million. At the March 11th meeting was instructed to reduce the Budget by \$250,000, below 3%. The fourth handout, Budget Reconciliation, realize some reductions not popular, but to get below 3% was necessary. Reduced two defibrillators to one, added \$10,000 to Advertising-Zoning rewrite, was \$20,000, removed \$100,000 from Landfill Closure, reduced Yard Waste pickups to 6 and reduced the Treasurer-GASB 45 (off year) by \$7,500. This reduced the budget increase to 2.68%. Most items level funded.

Councilor Gerlach had a potential addition, put forth \$10,000 as a potential cost for the Comp Plan rewrite for a consultant. Councilor Pelletier agreed, if not started in this cycle will not be done in time. President Roderick agreed, should find funds somewhere, questioned the replacement of the Police Station front door. Councilor Pelletier looked at the budget as a financial and a policy document. The BC starts with the basis the Council sets as on a number of occasions look to document for policy. The list of cuts removed \$187,000, if the Council adopts the recommended cuts, like saying is appropriate. Questioned if the Police utility budget could be cut by \$4,000. T/A Goncalo looked at previous calculations, trying to forecast future. Councilor Pelletier noted trying to balance the level of service to spend money, for example yard waste pick up, every year people say they want more. Starting to cut basic services people expect and demand, is hard to convince working in the best interests. T/A Goncalo explained had 8 yard waste pickups, added one in December, was publicized, can be brought to the landfill, cost Town \$5,400 per pickup. Councilor Pelletier did not like giving the T/A a target, Council needs to make the hard decisions. Councilor Gerlach looked at the Landfill Closure reduction, \$100,000, now \$135,000 over the 3% reserve, is it a prudent step not to put that in the Landfill Closure. Councilor Lambert, liaison to the Landfill Committee (LC) explained Pare Engineering recommended allocating \$168,000 for the closure. The LC was planning to identify various plans and costs for the closure, would be \$340,000 short if this continues. The LC has a number of plans all directed to pushing back the final day for closing. Don't think will have \$9 million in 4.5 years, prudent to look at other plans to extend.

DPW Director Steve Berluca explained part of the requirement of the license was 120 to 150 days after closure construction would start on capping, would need RFP for design consultant for capping a year or so prior. For this Fiscal Year (FY) Town administrator looking for \$140,000 to balance the Budget. Councilor Pelletier noted may not be best use of Town taxpayer resources, have a decision to make for a tax increase, have to balance spending reasonably. Councilor Lambert added are some positives, PAYT at some point will pay off, not throwing money into bags and interest. T/A Goncalo tried to reduce what would have the least impact. Dave Perry, Budget Committee Chair noted did not see an item for a School Resource Officer (SRO), the BC was meeting with the School Department on Monday, as far as the Industrial Park (the Park) most people don't want to spend money on additional studies. T/A Goncalo noted if money is not spent the Park will produce nothing. Chairman Perry suggested selling the Park, have had it for 11 years. Fall River has pad ready

sites. Laura Epke, Budget Committee member suggested adding to the list of reductions the \$7,000 put aside in reserves in case of an FTR run off. Jim O'Dell questioned spending money on studies, Town infrastructure needs to be addressed. President Roderick suggested starting with the suggested cuts. Police Chief Thomas Blakey thanked the Council, have some flexibility in the Police budget, much of the budget is contractual. Have been working with the School Department on the School Resource Officer (SRO), 75% of the \$68,000 to come out of the School budget and \$17,000 for the Town share. Ms. Epke suggested appropriating \$70,000 as a line item; cost should be reflected on the Municipal side of the Budget with a credit for the 75% school offset. Councilor Chabot suggested separating the cost, \$51,000 for the School and \$17,000 for the Town. T/A Goncalo suggested the School be required to pay 75% of the entire cost which would include Social Security and Medicare, looking at adding \$17,000 to the Municipal budget. President Roderick suggested starting with handout number 4, Budget Reconciliation, vote on groups of items.

Defibrillator, Advertising-Zoning Rewrite and Landfill Closure

Fire Department requested 2 Defibrillators, was cut to one, added back in \$10,000 for the Zoning rewrite and removed \$100,000 from the Landfill Closure. Question arose replacing two defibrillators or removing. T/A Goncalo explained replacing one this year and then one next year. Issues with current ones, expensive to repair due to age of units. Councilor Chabot noted, have to look at items as a need or as a want, also a public safety issue here there is a need for both defibrillators, Councilor Arruda agreed.

Councilor Arruda made a motion, seconded by Councilor Chabot to add back into the Budget the second Defibrillator for \$34,500. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Chabot made a motion, seconded by Councilor Gerlach to add \$10,000 back in to the Budget for the Zoning Rewrite. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Chabot made a motion to remove \$100,000 from the Budget for the Landfill Closure. Seconded for discussion by Councilor Pelletier. Councilor Chabot explained, collecting \$450,000 in additional funds, did take out \$68,000, money was taken out by the BC last year, can use some of that money for other capital investments, should take 3-5 years to close the landfill, with PAYT reasonable without the \$100,000, doable to make the numbers. Should look at other technologies. Councilor Lambert reluctantly agreed with Councilor Chabot, can wait another year, the LC will look at various plans and costs, urge to keep, represented to the Town the value of PAYT would not increase the cost of the bags and would not go out to bond. Councilor Gerlach urged the LC to work as expeditiously as possible to come up with a revised estimate. Councilor Pelletier did not disagree with that sentiment, sounds familiar, can do without this year, conscious about that, conflicting data points, both methodologies have their own merits. Motion passed on a vote of 5-1, Councilor Pelletier opposed.

T. A.-Website and Vehicle Exp

Councilor Chabot made a motion, seconded by Councilor Pelletier to go along with the T/A recommendation to reduce the T.A. Website by \$1,000 and the T.A. Vehicle Exp by \$500.00. Motion passed unanimously.

T. H. –Electric and Repairs

Councilor Chabot made a motion, seconded by Councilor Pelletier to reduce the Town Hall. Electric by \$1,000 and repairs by \$1,000. T/A Goncalo explained can make do, door downstairs needs to be replaced, hallway going downstairs freezing all the time have to keep the doors closed because of fire safety, need to modify to put some heat in the interior corridor. Motion passed unanimously.

Planner

Councilor Gerlach made a motion, seconded by Councilor Lambert to reduce the Planner item by \$2,000. Councilor Chabot suggested waiting for the Planning Board recommendation to see if there is a need for a Planner. T/A Goncalo discussed with PB Chair Steve Hughes, does see a need for a Planner. Motion passed unanimously.

Zoning – Steno and Tax Collector – Supplies

Councilor Gerlach made a motion, seconded by Councilor Chabot to remove as recommended \$700 from Zoning-Steno and \$1,200 from Tax Collector – Supplies. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Pelletier recused, related to Police Officer, left Council table.

Councilor Arruda made a motion to remove \$5,000 from Police Pension. Seconded by Councilor Chabot for discussion. T/A Goncalo, additional appropriation to offset interest income that feels will be unable to achieve. Goncalo

noted the Town was hoping to achieve 60% in 8 years. Councilor Chabot suggested leaving at \$725,000. Councilor Arruda amended the motion to reinstate \$5,000 to the Police Pension budget. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Pelletier returned to the Council table.

Fire-Electric, Police-Electric, Gas & Oil and Heat

Councilor Gerlach made a motion, seconded by Councilor Chabot to go with the T/A recommendation to reduce Fire-Electric by \$6,545, Police – Electric by \$4,000; Gas & Oil by \$8,000 and Heat by \$2,500, two Fire Stations have had upgrades. Motion passed on a vote of 5-1, Councilor Pelletier opposed.

Harbor Boat – Op

T/A Goncalo recommended removing \$2,000, had included for an assistant's salary, that position was removed. Councilor Lambert, concerned about the HC, the message the Council is sending by cutting items. Councilor Pelletier agreed, has attended many HC meetings, mooring holders expect certain things for the expense, ask them to pay added fees, now cutting back, reluctant to reduce their budget. President Roderick questioned, if not getting an Assistant how will the money be spent?

Councilor Lambert made a motion to maintain the \$2,000. Seconded by Councilor Pelletier for discussion. Councilor Chabot pointed to a need or a want. Councilor Pelletier noted charging for moorings was paying for a service, over the years the HC has generated approximately \$55,000 in revenue, costs \$22,000 to operate the boat, mooring holders are sensitive to a reduction. Councilor Chabot, did not agree with the past increase in mooring fees suggested decreasing mooring fees if the HC budget is cut. T/A Goncalo explained, still increasing by \$2,000 from original request. The motion to keep in the budget the \$2,000 passed on a vote of 4-2, Councilors Arruda and Chabot opposed.

Library

T/A Goncalo explained, gave a 2.5% increase in the grant to the library, then reduced the increase on page 14 because of a reduction in medical. This amount was also subtracted from the reimbursement.

Councilor Pelletier made a motion to keep the \$3,103 for the library. Seconded for discussion by Councilor Arruda. Councilor Pelletier, worried about the library funding, comfortable with holding the line, estimated at \$62,000. President Roderick pointed out it's a grant in total, how they use is it up to them. T/A Goncalo explained the salary increase was included in the request. Councilor Pelletier withdrew the motion, seconded for withdrawal by Councilor Arruda.

Councilor Chabot made a motion, seconded by Councilor Gerlach to remove \$3,103 from the Library line item. Motion passed unanimously.

DPW- Nextel, Electric and On Site

T/A Goncalo reduced to level funding, Director Berlucchi added, On Site was for Wastewater Management inspections, the Town's portion about managing the whole program. Councilor Pelletier questioned deadlines for inspections.

Councilor Chabot made a motion, seconded by Councilor Arruda to accept the Town Administrator's recommendation to reduce DPW Nextel by \$500, Electric by \$500 and On Site by \$2,500. The motion passed on a vote of 5-1, Councilor Pelletier opposed.

(2) Yard Waste P/U

Councilor Chabot made a motion to reduce the Yard Waste pick up by 2 pickups for a reduction in the line item by \$10,000. Seconded for discussion by Councilor Lambert. President Roderick, people do ask for more yard waste pickups, plan for 6, costs \$5,400 per pick up. Not eliminating all together. Director Berlucchi would have to rescind the published yard waste schedule, pamphlets have been sent out, residents can also bring to the landfill. Councilor Lambert received complaints, residents can plan for a certain amount, can't plan for storms. Motion passed on a vote of 5-1, Councilor Pelletier opposed.

Custodial Travel

Councilor Chabot made a motion to reduce as recommended Custodial Travel by \$160. Seconded for discussion by Councilor Pelletier. T/A Goncalo explained, trying to conserve travel for the maintenance department. Councilor Arruda suggested increasing that amount to \$500. T/A Goncalo added in that account money was also spent for recreation maintenance, including rolling of the fields. Suggested to the Maintenance Foreman that needs to be separated for

accounting purposes. Councilor Chabot amended the motion to increase from \$160 to \$500 the reduction in the line item for Custodial Travel. The amended motion, seconded by Councilor Arruda passed unanimously.

Ft. Barton Maintenance, Tree Committee, Beach Expenses and Summer Recreation Supplies

Councilor Gerlach made a motion to reduce as recommended by the T/A, Ft. Barton Maintenance by \$600, Tree Committee by \$250, Beach Expenses by \$200 and Summer Recreation Supplies by \$300. Seconded for discussion by Councilor Chabot. Councilor Gerlach noted that total was \$1,350, have made significant progress, move to not take those monies away to keep a level of services for those areas. T/A Goncalo reminded will be adding back into the budget a Consultant for the Comp Plan and for the SRO. Ms. Epke noted all those budgets would then be level funded like all the others, not advocating one way or another. Councilor Lambert reluctant to support reductions in those areas. Councilor Pelletier also supported Councilor Gerlach.

Councilor Gerlach motioned to withdraw the original motion, seconded by Councilor Chabot.

Councilor Gerlach made a motion to keep and not reduce Ft. Barton Maintenance by \$600, Tree Committee by \$250, Beach Expenses by \$200 and Summer Recreation Supplies by \$300. Seconded by Councilor Pelletier for discussion. Councilor Chabot again pointed to want or need, can be level funded with the increase to Summer Recreation supplies, not necessary for all the other line items. The motion passed on a vote of 4-2, Councilors Arruda and Chabot opposed.

Recreation Fertilizer, Seed and Lime

T/A Goncalo reduced the original request by \$1,650 which still leaves an increase, were funded \$4,250. This is in addition to mowing, in the contract at our request.

Councilor Arruda made a motion to accept the T/A request to reduce by \$1,650 Recreation Fertilizer, Seed, Lime. Seconded by Councilor Chabot passed unanimously.

Treasurer – GASB 45

T/A Goncalo explained the Treasure suggested taking \$7,500, only need for every two years. Councilor Pelletier noted that was the Treasurer's budget, Council should not be voting on that item. Councilor Chabot agreed.

Additions:

Comp Plan Adding \$10,000 for Consultant

Councilor Gerlach agreed with adding \$10,000 for a consultant for the Comp Plan update, concerned about the time frame if hiring a Town Planner may not have enough time to bring up to speed, liken to contingency planning. Councilor Pelletier agreed, dragging out will be more expensive, volunteers only meet once a month, can stick with the amount requested.

Councilor Gerlach made a motion, seconded by Councilor Arruda to add \$10,000 to the FY 13/14 Budget to cover consulting expenses related to the Comprehensive Community Plan Update. Motion passed unanimously.

School Resource Officer (SRO)

T/A Goncalo, pursuant to Chief Blakey's request added funds for a School Resource Officer (SRO). Added 25% of the cost, \$18,000. President Roderick questioned if the entire cost falls in the Municipal Budget with a reimbursement from the School. T/A Goncalo explained would probably carry the entire amount then show a reduction of \$51,000 somewhere. Chief Blakey looking into getting grants for this position.

Councilor Arruda made a motion to add a School Resource Officer to the Municipal Budget for \$68,000 with a reimbursement coming from the School of 75% for \$51,000 with a net cost of \$18,000 from the Municipal side of the budget. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chabot for discussion. Councilor Chabot suggested should only be \$68,000 in the Municipal budget, managed by the Police Department, is much cleaner in the budget. Chief Blakey noted the School might have more financial resources with grant money. Councilor Lambert agreed with Councilor Chabot and Chief Blakey about moving in both directions. Ms. Epke noted the importance of having a line item that identifies a SRO not lumped in with everything else. President Roderick, would be cleaner, however would benefit from being in the School Department budget if the Municipal budget is cut. T/A Goncalo suggested keeping the 75% in the School budget, would have a better chance of State or Federal reimbursement. Councilor Pelletier suggested changing to \$17,000 (math calculation) and the actual cost of Social Security, Medicare and incidentals or a 75/25% actual cost. Councilor Chabot amended the motion, seconded by Councilor Lambert as described to add a School Resource Officer for approximately \$70,000 with a 75%, 25% split between the School Department and the Municipal budget, in the Police Department Budget as a separate item and the

Town will get a credit or offset. The motion passed on a vote of 5-1, Councilor Chabot opposed, wanted the full amount in the budget.

T/A Goncalo will have for Monday's Council meeting for a vote to forward to the Budget Committee.

Industrial Park \$60,000

Councilor Arruda made a motion to remove \$60,000 from the Industrial Park (the Park) line item for Consulting Services as shown on page 4. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chabot for discussion.

Councilor Arruda suggested removing, along the lines of a need or want. President Roderick noted, have had the Park for some time, need to do something. T/A Goncalo explained the RI Economic Development Foundation (EDF) offered to review, to reduce cost to \$5million. Will have a timeline coming before the Council in the near future, looking to get funds and grants. Councilor Chabot noted, no documentation was received for the requested \$60,000. Councilor Gerlach noted if spending \$60,000 for consulting should have some detail of what that will get. Councilor Arruda withdrew the motion, seconded by Councilor Chabot.

Streetlight Reduction

Councilor Chabot discussed the Streetlight Reduction, Councilor Arruda suggested \$5,000. T/A Goncalo explained, difficult to communicate with National Grid, difficult to decide to cut off 60 more. Chief Blakey spoke at length, have to pay for different wattages, canopies, other fees.

Councilor Chabot made a motion to reduce the Streetlight budget by \$5,000 to bring to \$150,000. Seconded by Councilor Pelletier motion passed unanimously.

FTR Runoff

Ms. Epke suggested the chances of a run off were slim, should increase Council Contingency instead.

Councilor Chabot made a motion, seconded by Councilor Pelletier to reduce the FTR Runoff by \$5,000 to \$2,000 as a starting point to set aside monies for a restricted account that will gradually increase up to a maximum of \$7,000. Councilor Pelletier suggested a resolution may be needed. Ms. Epke explained that would probably happen. T/A Goncalo noted if reducing revenue and putting in a capital account, will force a tax increase, suggest doing another way. Should establish a capital account, with straight forward funding, Councilor Chabot moved the question. Motion passed unanimously.

Eyeglass Reimbursement

Councilor Chabot discussed the eyeglass reimbursement for AFSCME, Police and Fire unions, more money in that than contractually obligated, would like to reduce to reflect. T/A Goncalo explained with the Health Savings Account program there is no eyeglass option, are required to fund it. Propose funding for Police \$100, AFSCME \$75 and Fire Department. The Fire Department had a vision rider in the last contract, eliminated for this one. Councilors Gerlach, Arruda, Chabot, Roderick and Pelletier questioned why fund something not in the contract. Councilor Gerlach pointed out funding above the contract could cause trouble. T/A Goncalo suggested reopening; unions will probably file a grievance. Councilor Chabot noted the Council did not sign a contract with that benefit in it, yet would be saying will fund for one union but no other. Councilor Chabot noted the Administrator should have made Council aware of the problem, could lead to a grievance or arbitration, is not a little thing. President Roderick questioned, if they did not request, then why fund it? Not in the contract then not entitled. T/A Goncalo tried to explain, vision rider with the previous health plan but none with the Health Savings Account. Councilor Gerlach noted it was important to determine whether the purchase of eyeglasses is a qualified health savings expense. Councilor Gerlach pointed out the unions had the opportunity to go through the contract, this item needs more clarification. President Roderick noted the reduction would approximately be \$5,000.

Councilor Chabot made a motion to move \$3,400 from the Health Savings Account to Council Contingency temporarily until the issue is resolved. Seconded by Councilor Arruda, passed unanimously.

Fuel Maintenance

Councilor Chabot discussed the item from page 2 under Police, Computerized fuel monitoring system, had requested \$21,000, Administrator did not recommend. T/A Goncalo explained that was being done in this FY, cost approximately \$13,000. Looking to move fuel tanks to the Highway Garage, the contractor will install the equipment. Have asked all departments including the School to put in a share, pro-rated based on usage. Have not heard back from the School, asked for \$500.

Ladder Truck

Councilor Chabot proposed putting as a resolution to the Town for \$726,000 for a demo ladder truck versus one for \$1.3million. Councilor Pelletier noted had no discussion about a ladder truck. Councilor Chabot explained there are several tall buildings in Town, like the Bourne Mill and the Villages, the Schools. It would allow the Fire Department to fight fires from above, have to vent and go on the roof. Can put the resolution on by the Council if backed, does not have to go in the budget. T/ A Goncalo estimated it would increase the tax rate by five cents. Ms. Epke noted by the Council putting on as a resolution, essentially endorsing. Councilor Pelletier questioned estimates for additional costs. Councilor Chabot explained, it would replace one of the other engines. T/A Goncalo added the offer came up last week; the ladder truck would be housed at the South Tiverton station. Councilor Chabot explained the vendor would finance. Councilor Gerlach noted with the last reconciliation shaved off \$187,000, just put some back in, could get it back to 3.9%. President Roderick noted this was not taking into account the School side of the budget, unless in the Budget, a resolution is the way to go.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor Arruda motioned, seconded by Councilor Lambert to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

A True Copy.

ATTEST:

Nancy L. Mello, Town Clerk