

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

The Town Council of the Town of Tiverton, County and State aforesaid held a Joint Workshop with the School Committee and the Budget Committee on Thursday, the 12th day of September 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the Tiverton High School Library, 100 North Brayton Road.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Town Administrator and Town Treasurer were also present.

Budget Committee members present – Chair David Perry, Laura Epke, Joseph Sousa, Alex Cote, Chris Cotta, Margaret O'Dell and Joseph Bento

1. Call To Order

Council President Roderick called the Council portion to order with a roll call.

Discussion on Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/2013 & Current 2014 Budgets with S/C and B/C

B/C Chair David Perry announced the School Committee would not be present. Posting was not on the Secretary of State's website as required; will be meeting with them in a couple of weeks and will copy Council.

Chair Perry began dialog, intention to review FY 13 budget and see with 3 months into new budget how things going as well as anything coming up in FY14/15 such as any new regulations for school or town.

Councilor Roderick added the Treasurer, Denise Saurette was present and would be helpful. Discussion followed on revenue report as of June 30, 2013 regarding some accounts that were either over or short on their projections. Report indicates total revenue over 300K. Treasurer explained all end of year adjustments not reflected on report as of yet. School received more aid than expected, 3rd party billing up, Treasurer's office had approximately 100K in prior adjustment of accounts, and T/A revenue reflected the 100K from sale of Nonquit School.

Mr. Goncalo stated surplus not that large although 2013 was a pretty good year. Too soon to tell on FY 13/14 with only 3 months. Certain areas of issue such as position of Planner; moving ahead with Ind. Park, RFP for sale of entire park has gone out and a backup plan is being discussed. Able to get a lot of the work done with Marcel Valois who provided free service. Road paving and draining never has enough and may not be able to do as much as wanted. Didn't get as much as requested in fuel accounts, too soon to determine if will be issue.

Regarding FY14/15 T/A stated will look at actual expenditures and transfers. May be changing some account names and separate paving. Also may be looking at adding some personnel, planner, part time human resource, part time floater to allow coverage of offices with absenteeism. May be looking for more restricted accounts since FTR resolution doesn't allow carry forwards, particularly unfunded liability.

Laura Epke stated the expense report indicates underspent by 733K. Treasurer explained there are yearend audit adjustments with 60 day rule not reflected in this report. Also surplus in school department not part of town budget and still in total. Chris Cotter opined not out of ordinary.

Laura Epke questioned if any FEMA money is reflected. T/A informed in past received hurricane Sandy funds but still in process of trying to get some funds from the snow storm (NEMO). Laura questioned overtime in DPW and whether or not reflected any reimbursement. Treasurer informed all funds in column 2 titled changes to budget is strictly transfers.

Laura Epke questioned if the new fuel system is in place. T/A confirmed in the process of getting permitted. The funds have been encumbered. Larger tank will be relocated from police dept to DPW and hope to sell the 2000 gallon tank at DPW.

Councilor Roderick sees workshop as setting parameters. Last go round with budget process went relatively smooth. Asks B/C to understand where T/C coming from; looking for any increase to be minimal as possible, charged with health and safety of Town. Need for compromise and not over burden the taxpayers. Informed the Treasurer and Town Administrator will be looking at revenue and historical data and scrutinize accounts. No longer have luxury of carry forwards. Feel always had working relationship with B/C and hope this year even better.

Ms. Epke had hoped in Feb. or early March to hold workshop with T/C and S/C before past time to control numbers; helpful for police pension, landfill, etc to get control before final budget plan. Hope to get together and talk regarding restricted accounts, etc. Councilor Roderick hopes to meet before February and suggested next workshop have specific areas of Town Council needs to keep Budget Committee aware.

Chair Dave Perry informed why he felt important to have this meeting now, review last year and get idea of what the future needs before process actually begins in January. Knows the need for equipment and at some point need all capital requests from both Town and School.

Chris Cotta, most residents don't realize expenses are going to incur such as Library bonds, agree there are lots of needs. The proposal to sewer the north end has residents concerned; need accurate information on sewer district, many residents feel in the dark. Is balancing act; need to consider merit of the need to increasing expenses to make it all work. Contracts have built in increases that need to be met.

Laura Epke thanked Treasurer Saurette for work on refinancing the TIF Bonds. Treasurer explained will save 100K this year and 125K next year. Chris Cotta suggested structured, staggered measures to preserve capital improvements outside the normal operating expenses.

Chair Dave Perry suggested second opinion on Pare Engineering for landfill closure. Councilor Lambert, Landfill Committee has looked into that in past through speaking with contractors. Pare considered the premier expert in this field. Chris Cotta agreed, they are premier and work well with DEM. However could go out with request for information just for due diligence; Pare does have vested interest. Ms. Epke suggests may come up with different information on pricing and methodology.

Councilor Lambert no problem taking the suggestion to next landfill meeting; always looking and discussing. Previously had looked into Solar and now realize need at least 10 years before anyone could build on it.

Councilor Roderick, need to get more fine-tuned. Up front all looking at the numbers, want to achieve a threshold and need to determine how to get there or below. Know what cap is, would like far below.

Clerk will work with B/C Chair and S/C to set date for next workshop in October.

Councilor Roderick closed the workshop for the Council. Chair Dave Perry closed for Budget Committee.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

A True Copy.

ATTEST: _____

Nancy L. Mello, Town Clerk