

The Town Council of the Town of Tiverton, County and State aforesaid held a Special Meeting on Saturday, the 15th day of *February* 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the Tiverton Town Hall, 343 Highland Road.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Interim Administrator/Town Clerk Nancy Mello was also present.

1. Call To Order

Council President Roderick opened the Special Meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, then called the meeting to order at approximately 9:10 a.m. A request was received from Joan Macomber and Theresa Joy to address the Council on Budget funds consideration for Parents as Teachers, a family support and education program. Serves local families with children age's birth to kindergarten. The program no longer gets Federal money. Tries to address RI learning standards to get children kindergarten ready. Funding currently received from Prevention Coalition and legislative grants, approximately \$4,000. President Roderick noted the Council would take under advisement, thanked both for coming.

2. Overall Discussion and Possible Votes on FY 2014/2015 Budget

Interim Administrator Mello had provided copies of the most current budget with the changes from the last meeting in red. Reviewed salaries with the Treasurer, have spreadsheets for insurance, estimated a 5% increase. On page 10 reduced Group Insurance – Health to \$2,050,000, Social Security to \$512,075. Page 13- Change the Police Dept. Education Incentive back to the contractual amount of \$47,242. Page 16-reduced Rubbish/Recycling Collection to \$600,000. Distributed a memo from DPW Director Steve Berlucchi with a current annual total over \$597K. Councilor Pelletier wanted to know the actual CPI, Town Clerk will ask for a breakdown. Discussion followed on yard waste pick-ups. Consensus was to add \$6K to the \$600K. Page 17- reduced the Maintenance Foreman to the contractual amount for new employees, eliminated longevity. Reduced Custodial Personnel as well, just received notice the current custodian is going to retire March 31st. Will hire a contractor if necessary to clean. Would have to open up the contract because of union positions. Will advertise when funds are available. Discussion followed on the DPW Maintenance Vehicle. Consensus was to put on the next agenda. IT/A Mello suggested bumping the custodian's hours up to 40 per week, eliminating the seasonal helper. Page 18- Senior Center Director, after discussion Council consensus was to keep in the \$50,031 which includes a 2% increase. Any additional amount would need to be negotiated at time of contract renewal. Discussed the \$4,000 request for electric, the ramp is heated uses a lot of electricity. Consensus was to raise to \$4,500. IT/A noted the budget decreased to 3.11%, bottom line, \$18,999,560. Another point to consider was transfers between accounts. Watching this, running through all transfers and what was purchased.

Discussion went back to the DPW utility truck, if a used truck could reduce the amount. Councilor Pelletier suggested using the old truck, putting a body on it. Councilor deMedeiros suggested not getting a truck this year, repurpose the other truck. Consensus was to eliminate the DPW utility truck for \$20,780 and add \$2,500 to the Maintenance Vehicle. IT/A Mello will contact the DPW Director; see why the 5 payment truck budget request is \$9,910 versus the 3 payment truck for \$20,780. Department Heads told to come up with advertising money, that account is \$3K in the red, would not be advertising in multiple papers. Councilor Pelletier requested the statutory requirements, opportunity to control advertising for positions. Need to have a policy in place for advertising, going back to past

departments covered advertising costs before hiring. Councilor Chabot questioned the Challenge Grant, whether the advertising goes in this or next year's budget. IT/ A will check with Kate Michaud, Planning Officer for that and to see if there is any zoning change advertising relative to the Form Based Code. IT/A suggested eliminating advertising in the Providence Journal. Councilor Arruda requested a printout of tech services, detail run offs and a copy of the computer services contract from Everlasting Design. IT/ A Mello explained as far as Legal Services the Solicitor does not have defined terms, not all litigation goes to the Solicitor. Need for Labor Counsel contracts up June 2015 include Teamsters and Police, would not cut this item. Discussion followed on the part time clerical requested for the Zoning Department. IT/A Mello talked to Gareth Eames on working inspections around the relief clerk, otherwise the office is closed. Councilor deMedeiros agreed, Mr. Eames needs to work his schedule around that. Page 7- President Roderick suggested reducing the part time clerk to \$10K. IT/A Mello has not advertised for a Planner yet, increased the Planner to \$60K, have a copy of the BC minutes regarding the part time Planner. Councilor Chabot suggested changing Travel/seminars to Education/seminars. Town Clerk Mello was looking to see if the FTR budget could be reduced as well.

Discussion followed on the Police Pension improvement plan. Councilor Pelletier explained the rationale behind reducing the Unfunded Liability from \$825K to \$800K will not lose ground will still get to 100% funding in 2030 based on the assumptions. Consensus was to reduce the Police Pension liability to \$800K, located on page 10. Councilor Lambert arrived at this time. Councilor Pelletier questioned why the Recreation Coordinator was getting unemployment compensation, that person is getting \$8,500. IT/A just found out about it, will contact Recreation Chair, Gary Rose. Their latest meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum. Councilor Pelletier requested Recreation expenses, income and fee schedule. Questioned why \$12K was requested to re-seed the soccer fields. Councilor Gerlach also suggested questioning Mr. McGeough on the mowing expenses, how Recreation operates with other organizations, the fields and the infrastructure. Unclear on the process of how non town organizations are using the facilities. Councilor Pelletier noted if those organizations were charging a fee why that is not being contributed to the use of the fields. IT/A Mello will contact Mr. Rose and Mr. McGeough to put for discussion on a future agenda. Councilor Gerlach had tried last year to get beach fees raised for out of town residents. President Roderick noted Recreation costs more than it brings in. Councilor Gerlach argued even if traffic decreased and fees were raised to \$10 it would still make money.

Discussion followed on what was transferred out of the Police Department accounts. IT/ A Mello noted it came out of Uniform Equipment replacement and photo supplies, has to sit down with Chief Blakey. Councilor deMedeiros was comfortable with a 2% increase, need to cut approximately \$100K more, suggest going to the major departments, DPW, Police and Fire ask them to cut \$25K each. IT/A pointed out the DPW should not be cut any more, will tell all departments to cut 5-10% from their requested budget. The bottom line at this time was \$18,954,216, still 2.9%. As far as Pond Bridge will suggest a smaller budget this year, increase for next year. President Roderick suggested looking at big ticket items as a resolution for the FTR, take out of the General Fund. IT/A Mello noted the final budget has to be submitted by March 8th. Councilor Lambert suggested the Clerk and the Treasurer look into Section 310, find out what amount the Town can use at its discretion, would it have to go on the FTR. Councilor Pelletier calculated the 2% reduction to be 168,000. President Roderick noted upcoming Council budget meeting next Saturday, February 22nd, a joint meeting with the BC on Tuesday, February 25th. Councilor Chabot suggested changing the word Pagers to Operation Technology. Sally Black thanked the Council for all their hard work on the budget.

3. Discussion on Contract for Town Administrator Position

Councilor Arruda suggested tabling this item for now.

Councilor Chabot made a motion, seconded by Councilor Pelletier to table Discussion on Contract for Town Administrator Position to the next meeting, February 22, 2014. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

Personnel –42-46-5(a) (1) RIGL – Town Administrator Position

Councilor Pelletier made a motion, seconded by Councilor deMedeiros to enter into Closed Executive Session pursuant to 42-46-5(a) (1) RIGL – Town Administrator Position. Motion passed unanimously.

Council entered into Closed Executive Session at approximately 12:50 p.m.

OPEN SESSION:

In Open Session President Roderick announced action had been taken in closed session. Motion was disclosed.

Councilor deMedeiros motioned to officially extend the employment offer to the candidate subject to the terms of the contract as discussed. Seconded by Councilors Chabot and Arruda, motion passed unanimously.

Councilor deMedeiros motioned to seal the minutes of the executive session. Seconded by Councilor Chabot, motion passed unanimously.

3. ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor Pelletier motioned to adjourn, seconded by Councilor deMedeiros, passed unanimously.

The Special Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

A True Copy.

ATTEST: _____
Nancy L. Mello, Town Clerk