

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

The Town Council of the Town of Tiverton, County and State aforesaid held a Special Meeting on Tuesday, the 3rd day of March 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Tiverton Senior Center, 207 Canonicus Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Vice-President Chabot, Councilor Lambert, Councilor Peter Mello, Councilor Pelletier, and Councilor Sousa. Council President deMedeiros and Councilor Perry were absent. Town Administrator Matthew Wojcik and Town Clerk Nancy Mello were also present.

Call To Order:

Vice-President Chabot opened the Special Meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag then called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Town Clerk Nancy Mello conducted the Roll Call.

1. Overall Discussion and Votes on FY 2015/2016 Final Budget Requests

Town Clerk Nancy Mello explained all edits from last meeting were included, had discussion with Treasurer Denise Saurette regarding the Debt Service for the Library (net) listed on page 3. That amount should be gross, not net as listed, will pick up the difference on the revenue side. The Library total payment should be \$525, 548, on the revenue side will pick up \$309,088. That brings the Grand Total for Debt Service to \$4, 012,387.

Councilor Pelletier made a motion, seconded by Councilor Peter Mello to edit Library Debt Service line item from \$216,460 to \$525,548 eliminating the net reference in the line item. Motion passed on a vote of 4-0.

Councilor Pelletier made a motion, seconded by Councilor Peter Mello to add a line item to the Revenue side, \$309,088 for Library Debt Service Reimbursement. Motion passed unanimously.

VP Chabot explained there was a lengthy discussion on Police Pension at Saturday's special meeting, was left at \$700,000. DPW Director Steven Berlucci wished to discuss the request for a Street/Basin Cleaner on page 4. The street cleaner is on its last legs, is required by DEM to sweep the streets and clean the basin. Have 750 basins, only cleaned half this year, didn't treat for mosquitoes virus, applied for a 50% grant from DEM. Suggests just buying a street sweeper, can make a basin cleaner out of an old one with various parts. Will build the clamshell, have a chassis, a dump truck body. Have to do something or will be in trouble with DEM. Discussed this with the Budget Committee (BC) during the site visit. Councilor Sousa agreed the current sweeper does not do a good job, suggested looking at private options. Director Berlucci explained costs \$50 per basin to clean, have 1500 basins, would be \$75, 000 every year. A new sweeper costs \$195k; if waterless add \$35k. Councilor Sousa noted no tracks for a dozer budgeted. Director Berlucci explained taking a gamble on the dozer now, need for another 2 years, will run it until it falls apart. Town Administrator recommends if something is added to budget, something has to come out. Councilor Sousa reluctantly suggested the Paving account, Director Berlucci agreed, should hear about the DEM grant request soon. Director Berlucci had a price for a sweeper at \$194,995. VP Chabot, citing page 4, for the Street Cleaner, listed \$250k for a 5 year note at 5%, would be reducing the amount listed there. T/A Wojcik grant would be revenue.

Councilor Lambert questioned how close the budget was to the 4% cap. Town Clerk Mello noted would be very close after adding the library gross figure. T/A Wojcik heard back from the Trust regarding health insurance increase of 14%. Town has redistributed equity can take to offset the increase, \$74, 200 out of this year, \$18, 595 next year. The Town had historical claim experience of 4%; this year was up 24%. Budgeted for an 8% increase, claims on both sides, asked for some feedback because of the large number of claims. VP Chabot, referring to page 10, questioned if it would be 14% of \$1,890,000. T/A Wojcik explained have to take \$92k out of the stabilization fund. Councilor Pelletier noted that would be \$25-30k increase to the budget. Town Clerk Mello requested a number to plug into the budget tonight. T/A Wojcik noted the new figure would be \$2,154,600 for the Health Insurance line item and \$123,000 would be added to the revenue side. Town Clerk requested clarification on the \$123k to the revenue side, recalled last year as deducting from premium, not really revenue. T/A Wojcik explained it is taken monthly as a credit to that account, getting a one-time source of funds to offset so should be revenue.

Councilor Pelletier made a motion, seconded by Councilor Lambert to edit line item account #2190-5260-69 from \$1,965,600 to \$2,154,600 while simultaneously adding a Revenue line item of \$123,000 to capture cashing in equity disbursement from the Trust. Motion passed unanimously.

Town Clerk Mello noted that would affect the bottom line total for Insurance, have previously voted on totals of line item groups.

Councilor Pelletier made a motion, seconded by Councilor Sousa to make the change the grand total in the Insurance sub-category bottom line item total from \$2, 499,800 to \$2,688,800. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Pelletier, as part of being consistent, made a motion, seconded by Councilor Peter Mello to change the bottom line total for Debt Service line item from \$3,703,299 to \$4,012,387 to reflect changes for Debt Service of the Library Bond. Motion passed unanimously.

VP Chabot noted there is now a \$66k change with the increase in Health Insurance.

Councilor Sousa, motioned, eliminating the School Resource Officer (SRO), see as not essential and reallocate those funds to the dozer for the landfill. Councilor Pelletier explained the Town only pays 25% of that cost, clarified School Department pays \$50,400. Councilor Sousa also suggested saving money by eliminating the Tax Collection clerks at Town Hall, have a drop box. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Councilor Sousa noted if recommending a 4% budget, will be petitioner's budget, still have too much. VP Chabot called the SRO a valuable position at the High School, should not be cut. Linda Larsen commented the SRO serves a number of functions from bullying to cyber issues, tracks students who don't live in Town, does a number of after school programs, and affects all the students in the districts. VP Chabot noted the SRO was a comfort to the parents as well. DPW Director Berlucchi suggested moving \$45k out of Paving to the Street Sweeper line item. T/A Wojcik explained this is an extremely expensive piece of equipment, will be taking out of Paving for the next 5 years. DEM has a 50% match, Councilor Pelletier asked if the Council will know about the match before spending the money. T/A Wojcik explained the Town made a compelling case. Councilor Pelletier noted the BC needs to understand the threshold, suggested cutting this figure in half, cut it down to \$20k out of Paving; don't know about getting the grant money. Would be taking about \$50k out of the DPW capital budget for the next 5 years. VP Chabot suggested changing the wording from Street/Basin Cleaner to Street Sweeper. Director Berlucchi had all the major components to add to it to make it a basin cleaner as well.

Councilor Pelletier made a motion to edit Recurring Major Timed Finance Payments line item for DPW Street Sweeper eliminating the words Basin Cleaner, to \$195,000 5 year note 5%, 50% match of \$20K while also reducing line item Paving Program 5540-6794 to \$205K, the Operating Expenses Public Works total from \$636,100 to \$616,100 while increasing Recurring Major Timed Finance Payments total to \$337, 097 (page 4) to a Grand Total Municipal Capital to \$451,797. Seconded by Councilor Sousa motion passed unanimously. (amended further)

Town Clerk Mello clarified, putting that as a Street Sweeper, \$195,000 5 year note 5%, 50% match. Councilor Pelletier suggested putting the 50% match in parentheses. Councilor Chabot suggested finding a way to find funds for the hot box. Town Clerk informed Tax Assessor Dave Robert expected \$60k from motor vehicles on the revenue side, does not expect movement from the \$1,495,300. T/A preferred to send an almost bare bones budget to the committee, finds the Police Chief has some redundancy in his budget, some not so urgent. Suggest taking \$15k from the Jail Security System. Councilor Sousa suggested in the FD apparatus account, still have one payment left for an ambulance, like to pay one off before getting another one. VP Chabot noted the budget was still \$66k over.

Administrator Wojcik contacted the FD regarding Air packs since have not spent last year's money, are requesting \$25k and are on a rotation; suggest taking the \$25k out for the Air Packs and the \$15k for the Jail Security System. The ambulance is 8 years old, has \$171k miles, the electricity box is compromised. There is a backup rescue that runs about 12 times a year. Councilor Pelletier questioned if it was reasonable to have this rescue repaired.

Councilor Pelletier motioned to zero out the Fire – Replace Airpacks and Air Bottles, account #0980-8980, from \$25k to zero and reduce the Police – Jail Security System from \$15k to zero, totaling \$40k. The total column reduces to \$74,700. Seconded by Councilor Sousa motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Pelletier made a motion, to Zero out Fire Department Rescue 1 NEW for 240K, 5 year note, from \$50,900 to zero and the Total for Recurring Major Timed Finance Payments from \$337, 097 (\$20,000 was added to \$431,797 for the Street Sweeper) to \$286,197. The Grand Total for Municipal Capital becomes \$360,897. Seconded by Councilor Peter Mello motion passed unanimously.

VP Chabot noted these reductions totaled \$91k. Town Clerk Mello suggested bringing the Elections account to \$15k, in 2016 have a Presidential Preference Primary, a Primary and a General Election, if more funds are needed will come to Council, elections will happen regardless.

Councilor Pelletier made a motion, seconded by Councilor Sousa to edit the Elections account #1030-6329 changing it from \$25,000 to \$20,000, reducing the Total line item to \$28,100. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Pelletier made a motion to eliminate line item 1020-5114, Council Stipends, to zero, more of a symbolic motion than anything. Councilor Lambert recalled previous years discussions, would be impossible to put back in. Councilor Sousa seconded for discussion. Councilor Lambert was not sure the Council was in a position to vote without the advice of legal counsel. VP Chabot recalled a similar discussion, the reason being one Council cannot reduce because it would affect the next Council. The motion passed on a vote of 3-2, Councilors Chabot and Lambert opposed.

Councilor Pelletier motioned to rescind the vote to edit line item Council Stipends until the Council gets a legal opinion as to what the options are. Seconded by Councilor Peter Mello the motion passed on a vote of 4-1, Councilor Sousa opposed.

Discussion followed on debt service bond refinancing. Town Clerk Mello calculated the expenses, allowing for \$309 for the library and \$123k for health, looking at a 2.22% increase. VP Chabot suggested State reimbursement for school building. Councilor Sousa suggested reducing the Harbormaster assistant to zero, was pointed out that did not have a recommendation. Councilor Sousa looked at Grants and Health, those organizations should be getting private donations. If a petitioner's budget gets passed will be looking at even more cuts. Councilor Pelletier pointed out low income citizens' get the benefits of the grants. VP Chabot noted some 160 families from the East Bay benefit; usually give East Bay \$5,000, T/A recommended \$10k which East Bay requested. T/A Wojcik did not believe in grants, purpose of municipal government is to provide service to the people of the Town. Councilor Lambert noted that total for grants was \$19,500 not a lot of money to help people. Councilor Peter Mello suggested leaving these alone.

Councilor Pelletier motioned, to edit line item 6250-7756, East Bay Community Action to reflect historical levels to \$5,500 and Eastern RI Conservation District line item #6250-7760 to reflect historical levels reducing it to \$500, a reduction for Grand Total Health & Human Services to \$15,000 and Agriculture/Conservation Services to \$1,700. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chabot; motion passed on a vote of 3-2, Councilors Peter Mello and Lambert opposed.

Councilor Sousa made a motion to zero out the request from Wildlife Rehabilitators from \$200 to zero. Motion seconded by Councilor Chabot failed on a vote of 2-3, Councilors Peter Mello, Pelletier and Lambert opposed.

Councilor Pelletier noted in this budget copy there are no footnotes which are seen in the final budget. Councilor Sousa questioned having \$5,000 for Line Painting and Guardrail. T/A Wojcik explained the Guardrail funds are only used when needed. Reminded bills have been accrued for snow removal. VP Chabot also noted DPW funds not used go back to paving.

Councilor Sousa made a motion to eliminate Line Painting and Guardrail from DPW Operating Expenses budget. There was no second for this motion.

VP Chabot noted \$20k has already been taken out of Paving for this budget. Town Clerk Mello requested a vote on the overall budget tonight, has to go to the BC by the 4th, final expenses and revenues go the T/A and then to BC. The Town Clerk opined, without a Solicitor present, if the Council had resolutions that affected the budget, those would have to be completed tonight. The Clerk recalled a discussion regarding Recreation funds having a restricted account for field maintenance. T/A Wojcik did not think this was ready, did not have documentation regarding fees. Town Clerk Mello suggested the motion be as presented and amended for a total budget of \$19,457,793.

Councilor Pelletier made a motion to approve the Grand Total General Fund Expenses for the budget, \$19,457,793 incorporating changes made tonight. Seconded by Councilor Peter Mello, motion passed unanimously.

2. Discussion and Vote for Approval of Final Revenue Estimates

Town Clerk Mello recapped the two changes for Revenue; Health Insurance cash equity for \$123,000 and Library Debt Service for \$309,888 totaling \$432,088. Question arose if the library reimburses for health. T/A Wojcik explained the Library grant was a bottom line figure. VP Chabot questioned the \$16,500 and \$15k for new recreation programs. T/A Wojcik explained the programs should be very competitive, cost more per week for a babysitter. VP Chabot questioned the

bottom line figure for revenues. Councilor Pelletier calculated \$10,286,178, affirmed by the Town Clerk, noted that figure was achieved by adding the two other revenues.

Councilor Pelletier made a motion to approve the Total Revenue for FY 2016 for \$10,286,178. Motion seconded by Councilor Sousa passed unanimously.

3. Discussion and Vote of Resolutions for FTR

VP Chabot questioned if there were any resolutions to vote on tonight. Town Clerk Mello again noted only resolutions that would affect the budget like one for Recreation would have to be voted on tonight. T/A Wojcik explained the Recreation Commission was not ready for that yet. Town Clerk Mello noted the BC usually has 4 which include restricting Revaluation, capital, DPW and Budget adoption. Town Clerk Mello was going to ask the Solicitor if the Elections account has to be restricted every year. Discussion followed on resolutions to sell Town property and the Industrial Park (the Park). VP Chabot thought there was a resolution on the Park for a percentage of it going to infrastructure in a restricted account. VP Chabot suggested putting on a future Council agenda a resolution for sale of Town property and one for a percentage of the sale of the IP lots.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

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

The Special Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

A True Copy. ATTEST: _____
Nancy L. Mello, Town Clerk