

**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 Saturday, the 28th day of February 2015 at 9:00 p.m. at the Tiverton Town Hall, 343 Highland Road at 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Council President deMedeiros, Vice President Chabot, Councilor Lambert, Councilor Mello, Councilor Perry and Councilor Sousa (arrived late) Councilor Pelletier was absent. Town Administrator was also present

1. Call To Order

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

OPEN SESSION

Councilor Lambert motioned, seconded by Councilor Chabot to enter into closed Executive Session pursuant to 42-46-5(a)(2) – Collective Bargaining – IAFF. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Lambert motioned, seconded by Councilor Chabot to stay in Closed Executive Session pursuant to 42-46-5(a)(2)-Potential Litigation-Special Counsel. Motion passed unanimously.

Council entered into Executive Session at approximately 9:20 a.m.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Collective Bargaining – IAFF

Potential Litigation-Special Counsel

Council returned to open session at approximately 10:45 a.m.

OPEN SESSION

In Open session President deMedeiros announced action was taken in Closed Executive session on resolution regarding hiring of Special Counsel and in support of Town Administrator taking temporary emergency actions to defend the current f/y budget of the Town.

Council continued with open agenda on budget.

Councilor deMedeiros stated at the previous Budget Committee meeting T/A had adjusted some budget numbers in the Fire Department and will begin with voting on those numbers.

Administrator, page 12 accounts in question 3310 Fire Dept salary. Altered 6 numbers, documented exactly what needed for each month with changes in anniversary dates and class changes.

Firefighters 1st class to 1,019,022

Firefighters 2nd class to 19,031

Firefighters 3rd class to 57,202

Firefighters 4th class to 193,161

Probationary Firefighter to 5,516

Lieutenants to 157,818

Councilor Perry motioned to change bottom line for 3310 salary accounts to 2,169,385. Seconded by Councilor Sousa, motion passed unanimously.

Planning Board

Chair of P/B Steve Hughes went before Council concerned about budget recommended versus budget proposed by P/B. Comp Plan Update Consultant requested 5,000 and not recommended. Hughes felt necessary for continuity in process; Cecil Group has been involved since the beginning. Administrator explained with hiring Planner, consultants would not be needed. Recommends task Planner and not hire out. AICP Planner with 25 years' experience. Cut all consultants to use toward hiring of Planner. Chairman Hughes on comp plan, mapping mostly completed, future land use map can't do until the end of the process.

Regarding consulting services for zoning requested 15,000; even with Planner need outside consultant services. Hughes suggests reduce to at least 5,000. Administrator against stated position; not just able to use Planner but will have Zoning Official as well. Interim Zoning Official already addressed weaknesses and has experience in planning and zoning. New zoning and planning legal services will also be helpful. Agree zoning code a mess, needs to be addressed including use tables and definitions. A monumental effort and need all involved. The profile of the land use attorney's position not just to attend meetings but helps fix the process. Driven by staff and not consultants. Can review next year.

Steve Hughes added when Comp Plan accepted by State have 18 month timeframe to address the zoning. Discussion of need for offsite record storage. Some discussion on use of Essex Library. Agree on problem of storage.

Councilor Perry motioned, seconded by Councilor Lambert to add 2,500 to budget for offsite storage. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Perry motioned to increase bottom line on Planning Board to 20,000. Seconded by Councilor Chabot, motion passed unanimously.

Council thanked Mr. Hughes for dedication and good job.

Recreation – Request Permission to Advertise for Kayak and Paddleboard Services

Susan Gill Chair of Recreation requested approval to advertise for Kayak and Paddleboard Services. Trying new program at Fogland. RFP was reviewed by Teitz, now short timeframe. Looking to reach out to older kids 10 to 15. Trying to coordinate classes and will try to set up services. Recommended by Recreation Commission, attended Fogland Oversight Committee, thought fine. Self-sustaining, independent contractor.

Councilor Lambert motioned to authorize recreation Commission to advertise for Kayak and Paddleboard services. Councilor Chabot seconded, motion passed unanimously.

EDC Commission

Susan Gill also represented EDC. Changed website to Facebook, pay annual fee. Trying to focus 3 different areas in Town and want to do more focused forums. Brochure/Advertising, focus on Fogland and working with graphic artist. Need to pay for professional services and printing. Used for marketing locally, good tool. Administrator recommended 1500; reviewed usage pattern and current budget not used. Supplies reduced by 200. Councilor Lambert good for exposure.

Councilor Lambert motioned 3,000 for Brochure/Advertising. Seconded by Councilor Perry. Discussion followed relative to Discover Newport and grants. Ms. Gill suggested compromise to 2,000

Councilor Lambert amended the motion to increase to 2,000. Seconded by Councilor Perry, motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Perry motioned 300 for supplies, seconded by Councilor Mello motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on Special Projects & Events reduced to 2,000. Administrator commented the 2,000 is to contribute to the Newport Chambers for support. They receive substantial private grant to work with entire county, well

run effort. Hired a consultant and looking at all towns involved. Designed to be self-supporting and looking for seed money.

Councilor Perry motioned to increase bottom line on EDC to 5,100. Seconded by Councilor Chabot, motion passed unanimously.

Police Pension

Administrator briefed information from last B/C meeting. Member Louise Durfee raised question as to real contribution being made to fund and if includes the employees contribution. Responded would review documents in funding improvement plan to pension. Resolution specifically states 700,000 and to maintain that level. Not clear answer at this point. As a result of accelerated payments, ahead of schedule which is good. Should be funded in 6/8 years. Agree if arc closer to 580,000 sufficient. Market last couple years have increased fund and there are some actuarial issues. Councilor Lambert recalled at time of vote wanted to get ahead deliberately. Consensus was to reaming at the 700,000 this year and review again next year.

Overall Discussion and Votes on FY 2015/2016 Final Budget requests

School Committee Chair Sally Black commented on reimbursement by State on bonds for school construction. Still trying to get General Assembly to consider raising Tiverton from 30% to 40%.Suggests a joint resolution of T/C and S/C for Representative Edwards to again try to get the increase. Requested Clerk draft resolution.

Library

Administrator addressed, problematic, trying to reconcile increase of utilities, cleaning, building 8 times bigger. Custodian flat out now, trying to increase hours to 40. Discussion on costs originally presented by Library. Suggestion by Councilor Sousa to approve the Administrator's numbers and send to B/C for them to wrestle with. Councilor deMedeiros concerned so many budget needs and other departments being reduced, hard to justify beyond recommendation of T/A.

Chair Barbara Donnelly stated never said would not cost more. People heard what they wanted to hear. Would have to be increased with more square footage. Been on commission 38 years and always trying to catch up.

Leon Hoyer commented on projected budget up 10% consistent with salary and benefits. Discussion on FICA needs and additional funds necessary. Need for outside maintenance and still maintaining Essex. Recommendation cut 61,000 from request.

Consensus at this point to remain with T/A recommendation of 525,000.

Clerk will schedule another Special Town Council meeting on Tuesday at the Senior Center to vote final budget and revenue by March 4th.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor Sousa motioned, seconded by Councilor Mello to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:15 p.m.

A True Copy.

ATTEST: _____ Nancy L. Mello, Town Clerk