

COUNCIL OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MONDAY MAY 4, 2009

A Council of the Whole meeting took place for Monday, May 4, 2009, at **6:30 p.m.** in MacKinnon Council Chambers.

1. **Chairwoman will call the meeting to order**-Chairwoman Nikolla called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.
2. **Roll Call**- Councilors Present: **KING, LOGAN, NIKOLLA, REGIS, VANDAL and VECCHIA.** Excused: **LAZO, LIVENGOOD and MCDONALD.**
3. **Overview of FY2010 Budget**-Town Manager Christopher Clark opened the meeting stating to the budget presented tonight will be in a Public Hearing May 21, 2009 at 6:30pm. It will be then be completed and voted on by the end of May. Clark highlighted that the 2% reduction in raises totaled approximately \$70,000. The Police and DPW are still in collective bargaining negotiations at this time. The Fire Department came to agreement last week to reduce raises from 3% to 2% for the next three years. In addition, \$297,000 is required to be in Supplemental Reserve according to Mass Law Chapter 475. Town Manager Clark has requested thus money be transferred from Free Cash into the Supplemental Reserve. Special Litigation is in process at this time in order to be in compliance or in appeals by December 2009. Lastly, there was \$900.00 allotted for Town Council (\$100.00 each) and at the General Government Sub-Committee it was agreed to decrease this allotment to \$1.00 per council, resulting a \$9.00 total expense rather than \$900.00. The following were specific breakdowns:

a. General Government- \$44,000, 600.00 reflects a 1.4% increase in budget from FY2009

b. Public Safety (Fire, Police, and Health Inspectors) reflects \$5,922,138.000

c. Public Works (DPW administration/operations, snow and ice removal) reflects \$1,733, 070.00

Councilwoman Nikolla mentioned that approval by sub-committees was unanimous as favorable on all above mentioned budgets

d. Union Service (Veterans, Aging, Library and Recreation) reflected \$624,470.

e. Education reflected \$22,948,039.00. Bay Path Vocational has an additional line item total of \$1,321,726.00

f. Enterprise Operation Account- Sewer \$3, 223, 897.00 and Water \$3,347,129.00 totaling \$6,571,026.00. There was a 3% anticipated increase including in the budget for water and sewer.

Citizen Stephanie DeMartino of 92 Harrington Street inquired about how this would effect citizens individually. It in essence reflects \$3.00 per \$100.00.

Councilor King inquired about the Education Surplus. Finance Director Karen Harnois explained that an excess of \$900,000.00 was in school choice, however, the final numbers cannot be determined until June 2009. It appears to be in excess of \$1,000,000.00 on the proposed budget, but when calculating the chapter 70 formula, the increase is required to cover expenses. It is not actually an excess in funds.

4. **Adjournment**-A motion was made by Councilor Regis and seconded by Councilor Logan to adjourn. **VOTE BY ROLL CALL. THOSE IN FAVOR: KING, LOGAN, NIKOLLA, REGIS, VANDAL and VECCHIA. Excused: LAZO, LIVENGOOD and MCDONALD. MOTION PASSES.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Williams MAsc, Recording Clerk