

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
April 30, 2007

A special meeting of the Jamestown Town Council was called to order at the Jamestown Philomenian Library, 26 North Road at 7:00 p.m. by Council Vice President Julio J. DiGiando. The following members were present:

William A. Kelly
Michael Schnack
Barbara A. Szepatowski

absent: David J. Long, President

also present:

Bruce R. Keiser, Town Administrator
Arlene D. Petit, Town Clerk
Christina Collins, Finance Director

NEW BUSINESS

Vice President DiGiando asked that the budget be moved up on the agenda for immediate discussion and consideration.

3) FY2008 Town Budget for review and; if favorable, for adoption
The Town Administrator reviewed his memorandum outlining the FY 2007-2008 budget and proposed revisions.

The Town Administrator noted that the reflected changes in several accounts would accommodate the Council's interest in restoring funding for open space reserves. In addition it was noted that lease-purchase financing for a second tanker truck to be acquired in the next budget year is incorporated.

The Town Administrator stated that the Finance Director and he have restructured debt service for farmland acquisition and deleted allocations for several capital budget items that could be held over to a future year or funded through existing reserves.

Debt Service Reduction Proposal

Allocate a total of \$500,000 from three existing capital reserve accounts; thus reducing farmland bond financing from \$3,000,000 to \$2,500,000. Debt service payments would be reduced by \$30,000. The following table shows the current balance in the capital reserve accounts, the proposed allocation, and the net balance with the proposed expenditures:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Proposed Open Space Funding</u>		<u>Balance</u>
	<u>Balance 3/30/07</u>	<u>Anticipated Contribution</u>	
Water Resource Prot. Comm.	\$416,114.50	\$200,000/00	\$216,114.50
Golf Course	\$392,000.00 *	\$200,000.00	\$192,000.00

Land Use Sub-Regulation	\$229,019.00	\$100,000.00	\$129,019.00
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*Approx. balance as of 3/31/07 is \$787,000.00 - \$300,000.00 effluent system - \$95,000.00 yearly allocation for golf course = \$392,000.00.

The Town Administrator reported that the revised capital budget includes an additional \$50,000 for open space and the following deletions:

<u>Deletions from the Capital Budget</u>		
<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reason for Deletion</u>
Composting Screener	\$15,000.00	defer to future year
Ballfield rehab	\$15,000.00	fencing completed, infield improvements can be funded through recreation operating accounts
Riding mower	\$ 8,000.00	a mower was purchased in current fiscal year; defer second purchase until storage is available
Country Club	\$ 3,000.00	reserve funding available

Other Considerations

The Town Administrator mentioned that the Council may want to consider appropriating funding for the continued coyote study program spearheaded by Numi Mitchell, PH.D. The Town Administrator noted that the study program has been school-based. Dr. Power has stated his commitment to assist in the funding of this project.

The Town Administrator reported that there was a \$30,000.00 decrease in health insurance rates for the Jamestown schools. Additionally, there has been a \$5,000.00 reduction in human services requests.

Councilor DiGiando called for Council discussion.

The Council considered the following:

Open Space

The Council discussed the need to continue the purchase of properties to protect open space and to protect the water supply for the Town. Several considerations were mentioned, such as the critical need for the recharge of groundwater, and the protection of environmentally sensitive properties. The Council discussed increasing \$50,000.00 as proposed by the Town Administrator to \$100,000.00 and to work more aggressively to acquire property that will assist in the protection of wetlands and open space.

The Town Administrator noted that the Town is presently in the legal process of redeeming properties acquired through the tax forfeiture.

2006-2007 FY Budget Incidental and Emergency Fund

The Finance Director reported that there was an approximate balance of \$22,000.00 in the present year's Incidental and Emergency Fund account.

Coyote Project:

The Council discussed the request to assist in funding the coyote project. The Town Administrator reiterated that the School Committee and the School Superintendent would be willing to contribute a portion of the funding requested by Numi Mitchell, Ph.D, Lead Scientist for the Narragansett Bay Coyote Study, as this includes an educational component accessed by the Jamestown students. Funding in the amount of \$5,000.00 (\$2,500.00 Town and \$2,500.00 School).

Wind Energy Committee:

The Council discussed their commitment to the study of wind energy as a potential alternative source of energy. As the study proceeds, it will be necessary to erect a MET tower to progress with the wind energy study. The cost to erect the tower is \$30,000.00. With the possibility of a \$25,000.00 loan from the RI Renewable Energy Revolving Fund, the Council discussed contributing funding to the committee to assist in their study. It was the consensus of the Council to assign \$10,000.00 from the present Incidental and Emergency budget.

It was moved by Councilor Schnack, seconded by Councilor Szepatowski to allocate from the 2006 – 2007 budget Incidental and Emergency fund \$10,000.00 to the Wind Energy Committee to be used in the study of wind energy for the Town of Jamestown and to allocate \$2,500.00 from the 2006 – 2007 Incidental and Emergency fund to assist in the continuing coyote study. So unanimously voted.

The following members of the audience commented on the budget:

Sav Rebeci, Sail Street
Dennis Webster, Mt. Hope Avenue

It was moved by Councilor Schnack, seconded by Councilor Szepatowski to increase the Open Space line item from \$50,000.00 to \$100,000.00 for the FY 2008 budget, resulting in a Capital Improvement Budget of \$694,348.00. So unanimously voted.

Following discussion on several line items, it was moved by Councilor Schnack, seconded by councilor Szepatowski to accept the FY 2008 Town/School budget in the amount of \$19,877,132.00. So unanimously voted.

- 1) Request from Jennifer Stearns Talancy to alter farm stand canopy on town property at East Ferry

It was moved by Councilor Szepatowski, seconded by Councilor Schnack to approve the request of Jennifer Stearns Talancy to enlarge the farm stand canopy to 10' x 10' at the location of the town property at East Ferry. So unanimously voted.

- 2) *Jamestown Historical Society*
 - i) Event License with Vendors Application
Conanicut Battery Park
May 12, 2007
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

It was moved by Councilor Schnack, seconded by Councilor Szepatowski to approve the Event License for the Jamestown Historical Society for May 12, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., subject to the resolution of all applicable signatures and insurance. So unanimously voted.

- ii) One Day Peddler License Application
Same as above

The Town Clerk informed the Council that the request for a one day peddler license was not necessary and was withdrawn.

- 3) FY 2008 Town Budget for review and; if favorable, for adoption
Previously addressed.

Patrick Bolger requested he be allowed fifteen minutes to address the proposed highway facility at the May 14 Town Council meeting.

The Town Administrator suggested that the Council consider holding a work session on May 21 following the regularly scheduled Board of Water and Sewer Commission meeting.

There being no further business before the Council, it was moved by Councilor Schnack, seconded by Councilor Szepatowski to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. So unanimously voted.

Attest:

Arlene D. Petit
Town Clerk

- c: Town Council Members (5)
Town Administrator
Town Solicitor
Administrative Circulation