

GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Special Meeting Minutes

May 30, 2017

Planning Office, 114 Main Street

7:00 pm

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Allis.

President Allis stated this meeting was being recorded. If any other person present was doing the same, they must notify the chairperson at this time. It was noted Christopher Collins and the Town Council were audio recording and GCTV-15 was video recording the meeting for future broadcast.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:** Roll Call was taken; all Councilors were present.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Town Clerk Deborah J. Tuttle; Director of Municipal Finance and Administration Marjorie Lane Kelly; Town Accountant Elizabeth Braccia; Greenfield School Business Manager Howard Barber; Fire Chief Robert Strahan; GCTV-15 staff; Aviva Luttrell, *the Recorder*; and members of the public.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Ricketts, second by Councilor Maloni, it was unanimously,

**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL WAIVE THE RULES OF PROCEDURE, 8 ORDER AND DISPOSITION OF BUSINESS, TO ALLOW THE AGENDA ITEMS TO BE TAKEN OUT OF ORDER.

**§ 1261-8. Rule 8, Order and Disposition of Business.**

**A. AGENDA**

(1) At every regular meeting of the Town Council order of business shall be as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call of Members
3. Pledge of Allegiance (voluntary)
4. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting
5. Public Comment
6. Public Hearings
7. Communications from Mayor, Town Officers and Employees
8. Communications from Superintendent of Schools and School Committee
9. Motions, Orders, and Resolutions
10. Presentation of Petitions and Similar Papers
11. Reports of Committees
12. Unfinished Business
13. Old Business
14. New Business
15. Motions for reconsideration
16. Adjournment

(2) The above shall not be departed from except by vote of the majority of members present. Posted Council agendas shall state this order of business.

**B. ENDORSEMENT**

Every ordinance, motion, order, proclamation, resolution or other measure presented for Town Council action shall be accompanied by the approximate cost involved if possible.

**C. DISPOSITION OF AGENDA ITEMS**

(1) All items of business appearing upon the Town Council Agenda shall be taken up in the order of their appearance and be fully and openly debated and disposed of by vote or other action of the Town Council, previous to consideration of any other item of business.

(2) No item of business shall be referred to committee except for the following reason:

- (a) For study and report at a subsequent meeting.
- (b) For the purpose of drafting an ordinance.

(3) All Town Council Committees shall report on current matters at regular Town Council meetings.

**MOTIONS, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS**

**Order no. FY 17-132**

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Stempel, second by Councilor Ricketts, it was by show of hands, 7 yes and 5 no, by majority.

**VOTED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED, MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION, Pursuant to the Town Council Rules of Procedure, Rule 6.2, I hereby submit a motion to reconsider the following motion taken at the Town Council meeting on May 17, 2017: THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL RECONSIDERS THE FOLLOWING MOTION APPROVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL ON MAY 17, 2017:

**Order no. FY 17-124**

**Financial Order 18-001**

**VOTED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR MARTIN, AN ORDER TO APPROPRIATE \$48,164,004 FOR THE FY2018 GENERAL FUND BUDGET, ORDERED, THAT: THE SUM OF \$48,164,004, WHICH IS THE FULL AMOUNT NECESSARY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2018 GENERAL FUND BUDGET (JULY 1, 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2018), BE APPROPRIATED FOR THE PURPOSES STATED. TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION, \$500,000 WILL BE TRANSFERRED FROM PARKING METER RECEIPTS RESERVED AND \$48,164,004 WILL BE RAISED AND APPROPRIATED, AS AMENDED.

President Allis noted the motion was now on the floor to be reconsidered.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Stempel, second by Councilor Renaud, it was,

**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE FY 2018 OPERATING BUDGET BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

- By restoring \$844 to Total Public Safety, increasing Total Public Safety to \$6,385,929;
- Further by restoring \$46,180 to Total Education, increasing Total Education to \$19,336,023;
- Further by restoring \$23,238 to Total Debt Service, increasing Total Debt Service to \$2,323,834;
- Further by restoring \$121,314 to Total Miscellaneous, increasing Total Miscellaneous to \$12,131,462;
- Further by increasing Total Operating Budget by \$191,576 to \$48,355,580;
- Further by attaching to the Total Operating Budget the following statement to the full Town Council, Mayor, School Committee and residents of our Town:

The annual operations for municipalities must be planned according to actual funds guaranteed by the Total Operating Budget as approved. The 1 percent “across the board” cut to the Town of Greenfield, Massachusetts FY2018 Total Operating Budget will result in the absorption of an unjust 2 percent or more cut to departments and line items without fixed cost mandates; by cutting by 1 percent line items that must be funded as proposed, 2 percent or more will have to be taken from somewhere else. Please note: This amendment includes a \$33,000 increase to the Smith Vocational tuition budget item to fully fund anticipated costs for three students attending the school in FY18.

It is the intent of the Town Council, in adopting this amendment to the FY2018 Total Operating Budget, to ensure fixed costs are fully funded and that no departments will absorb a higher cut to their budgets as a result of these fixed costs.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Stempel explained her reasons for proposing the motion for reconsideration and amendments. Comments included:

- Concerns relating to the disruptive intentions of the budget reductions.
- Tonight’s amendment could be considered a compromise which has been done frequently by this Council.
- Concerned some are more focused on the outcome rather than the process.
- Unsure how the overall 1% cut was arrived at.
- The Council doesn’t have the authority to increase the Smith Vocational budget to an amount higher than the Mayor proposed.
- The loss of \$6,000 to the Library budget was remarkable.

- Are we trying this method this year to see if it works to possibly do this in the future.
- A 1% cut across the board is not across the board because fix cost must still be paid so the aggregate would need to be absorbed by other departments causing a more than 1% cut.
- Process for departments, school, and Mayor if supplemental request were to be made.
- There would only be layoffs if the Mayor chose not to submit a supplemental budget to the Town Council.
- The cost of unemployment would rise if there were layoffs.
- The process of underfunding and backfilling, paying debt with debt, was not a good practice.
- The 1% reduction was about half of funds which were generally turned back by departments at the end of the year.
- The 1% reduction would allow the use of previously taxed funds to be used to keep the tax rate low.
- Differing philosophies at play in the recommendations; the Town Council it's doing its job by deliberating these options.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Mass, second by Councilor Pyfrom, it was unanimously,  
**VOTED:** TO CALL THE QUESTION.

Councilor Stempel reiterated her motion.

It was by majority, roll call, 6 yes and 7 no,

**DEFEATED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE FY 2018 OPERATING BUDGET BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

- By restoring \$844 to Total Public Safety, increasing Total Public Safety to \$6,385,929;
- Further by restoring \$46,180 to Total Education, increasing Total Education to \$19,336,023;
- Further by restoring \$23,238 to Total Debt Service, increasing Total Debt Service to \$2,323,834;
- Further by restoring \$121,314 to Total Miscellaneous, increasing Total Miscellaneous to \$12,131,462;
- Further by increasing Total Operating Budget by \$191,576 to \$48,355,580;
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It is the intent of the Town Council, in adopting this amendment to the FY2018 Total Operating Budget, to ensure fixed costs are fully funded and that no departments will absorb a higher cut to their budgets as a result of these fixed costs.

President Allis thanked Ways and Means Committee Chairperson Stempel and all of the Ways and Means Committee members for their due-diligence during this budget season.

Vice-President Mass noted the operating budget was still on the table to be voted.

**Order no. FY 17-124**

**Financial Order 18-001**

THAT IT BE ORDERED, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR MARTIN, AN ORDER TO APPROPRIATE \$48,164,004 FOR THE FY2018 GENERAL FUND BUDGET, ORDERED, THAT:

THE SUM OF \$48,164,004, WHICH IS THE FULL AMOUNT NECESSARY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2018 GENERAL FUND BUDGET (JULY 1, 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2018), BE APPROPRIATED FOR THE PURPOSES STATED. TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION, \$500,000 WILL BE TRANSFERRED FROM PARKING METER RECEIPTS RESERVED AND \$48,164,004 WILL BE RAISED AND APPROPRIATED, AS AMENDED.

It was by roll call, 8 yes and 5 no, by majority,

**VOTED:** TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 17 -124, Financial Order 18-001.

**ADJOURNMENT:** On a motion by Councilor Ricketts, second by Councilor Maloni, it was unanimously **VOTED:** TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:49 P.M.

A true copy,

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah J. Tuttle, Town Clerk

GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

GCTV-15  
Special Meeting  
May 30, 2017

	Attendance	Stempel Amendment	Operating Budget as amended				
1. Sund, Verne	Y	N	Y				
2. Lobik, John	Y	N	Y				
3. Allis, Brickett	Y	N	Y				
4. Muzyka-Pyfrom, Wanda	Y	N	Y				
5. Wainstein, Robert	Y	Y	N				
6. Burge, Maria	Y	N	Y				
7. Childs, William	Y	Y	N				
8. Stempel, Ashley	Y	Y	Y				
9. Leonovich, Daniel	Y	N	Y				
10. Mass, Isaac	Y	N	Y				
11. Renaud, Karen	Y	Y	N				
12. Ricketts, Penny	Y	Y	N				
13. Maloni, Mark	Y	Y	N				

6 Yes 8 Yes  
7 No 5 No