

**City Councillor Joseph A. DelGrosso
City Council Chamber
Council Meeting
June 02, 2014**

Regular meeting of the Revere City Council was called to order at 6:00 P.M.

President Zambuto presiding.

1. Salute to the Flag by the members of the Revere City Council and those in attendance.

2. Roll Call: Councillors Arrigo, Giannino, Guinasso, Haas, Morabito, Novoselsky, Patch, Penta, Powers, Reardon, and Council President Zambuto present.

3. Approval of the Journal of the meeting of May 19, 2014.

The Journal of the meeting held on May 19, 2014 was declared approved as presented.

14-141 4. Revere Scholarship Presentation.

Comm. from the Mayor:

I respectfully request that at the City Council's June 2, 2014 meeting, time be set aside at 6:00 P.M., for a presentation to the City of Revere Community Scholarship recipient.

Matthew Emmitt Roncevich

Ordered received and placed on file.

Ordered on a Motion of Councillor Penta: That the rules be suspended to take up various communications submitted by the Mayor.

14-140 5. Comm. from the Mayor:

Re: Proposed FY2015 Operating Budget

I am pleased to submit for your consideration a proposed Fiscal Year 2015 budget for the City of Revere in the amount of \$160,922,830. This represents a 4.3% increase over the FY2014 adjusted municipal budget. We have continued to build on our new budgeting process with the support and assistance of the Edward J. Collins Center for Public Management at the University of Massachusetts. You will note additional changes in this year's budget as we continue to improve upon the way we report and explain departmental goals and accomplishments. I would like to thank all of our department heads for their dedication and commitment to this new budget process.

Every budget cycle brings with it, its own unique challenges and opportunities. We continue to prioritize funding for our core tenets of public education, public safety, economic development, and the rebuilding of our aging infrastructure. We are seeing public and private investments in Revere continue to rise, which will boost our short and long term economic growth forecasts.

Some key factors to consider in reviewing this year's budget include the following:

Education-Strengthening our commitment to our children and our schools

This year's budget increases funding to Revere's public schools by \$1,028,818. The total proposed spending for Public Education in FY15 is \$70,130,323. While Chapter 70 increases in years past have been more robust, we believe that this level of funding will allow us to continue to fund the many outstanding and existing programs within our public schools. This proposed budget will enable us to move forward with important goals, such as advancing high quality instructional practices, furthering expanded learning time opportunities, and maintaining the existing culture of high expectations for both teachers and students within all Revere schools.

Public Safety-Keeping our neighborhoods and homes safe

As most of you know, I have always viewed my number one responsibility as Mayor is the safety and security of our neighborhoods. My financial commitment in the FY15 budget is in keeping with these priorities. The total proposed spending for public safety, including Fire, Inspectional Services and Police, in FY15 is \$20,705,136. This is an increase of \$1,939,597 over last year, with proposed increases for the Fire Department of \$868,109 and the Police Department of \$1,046,633. There are several reasons for the increases; first, we are budgeting for two (2) additional Police Officers. Proposed funding will bring the compliment of the Police Department to 96 officers. This is still a far cry from the number of uniformed officers we had back in the late 90's when the department had 117 members- however, we are slowly, but steadily trying to rebuild given the resources we have. Clearly, our ultimate goal is to put us in a better position to respond to the needs of our growing city. Under the leadership of Chief Joseph Cafarelli, patrol officers are being dispatched in a way that maximizes effectiveness by identifying areas that may be subjected to higher rates of certain incidents, and in some cases, targeted patrols are utilized to combat criminal activity as reported by residents throughout the community regarding their specific areas. In addition, the Chief has placed a renewed focus on community policing initiatives. Some examples of this include the new Police Substation on Pleasant St, a new and improved Citizens Police Academy, and the reinvigoration of National Night Out.

The Fire Department under the direction of Chief Gene Doherty continues to focus on training and increased response times. While the Revere Fire Department already has amongst the best response times in the Commonwealth, Chief Doherty recognizes that the status quo does not breed excellence and so they continue to look for ways to improve. With regards to funding, it is important to note that when I assumed office, the department was already out of contract. After many amicable meetings, it was agreed upon that we simply could not agree. This led to arbitration. As a result, you will see proposed funding consistent with the new collective bargaining agreement. This years compliment of firefighters will total 98. It is important to note that of these 98, 10 have historically been funded from other sources, mainly through a federal "Safer Grant". Unfortunately, that grant is no longer available to us. Once again, in keeping with our commitment to public safety, we have committed to retain these officers in order to ensure adequate response time to fires and medical aid calls within the city of Revere.

A final note; we continue our efforts with our Police and Fire, in conjunction with the Town of Winthrop toward our long awaited Regional Emergency Communications Center (RECC) will come online later this fall.

Economic Development-Rebuilding the commercial tax base

We stay firmly committed to an aggressive approach towards economic development in Revere in order to expand, and diversify our commercial tax base. We believe this will ultimately lead to tax relief for our residential rate payers. As Federal and State budgets tighten, grants previously available to fund positions in Planning and Community Development, as well as Economic Development have dried up. This however, should not curb our efforts in fostering economic growth and development. That will bring these much needed revenues into our community.

You should be made aware that our Engineering Department is working hand in hand with both our Public Works Department and Planning and Development to keep up with this ever increasing workload. We have numerous public and private projects that are either underway or in the planning stages. Recently, we broke ground at Wonderland Station on a high end luxury apartment complex with an investment in our community of nearly \$43 million. We are close to closing on another similar development in the same vicinity both geographically and financially. These will no doubt act as catalysts for future growth. We are also seeing much needed improvements and development along Broadway, through both public and private investment. This past year we received a MassWorks Grant in the amount of \$1.5 Million to help us continue our work that includes creating more public parking, expanding newly installed antique street lighting, investing in signage and storefront improvements, and designing a more pedestrian friendly district worthy of a first class downtown business district. In addition, MOM's Motorcycles, For Kids Only, Harley Davidson, and Market Basket are making significant enhancements and improvements to the city's overall commercial portfolio. As an aside, I do feel confident that we will see Market Basket open in the very near future. We are also fully engaged in the construction of the new Staff Sergeant James J. Hill School, Harry Della Russo Stadium, and three (3) new ball fields at St. Mary's. These projects will provide greatly needed public space and buildings for our school aged children and residents for years to come.

Code Enforcement-promoting a health environment

We are in the final stages of development of our new 40U code enforcement program. This new local-option procedure (codified as M.G.L. Ch. 40U) is much like the one in place for hearings we conduct for parking citations. 40U will allow for appeals of citations outside the judicial system, and will allow for penalties for late payments to be imposed through the automation of the ticketing process. In addition, it will give the city the capacity to impose sanctions for failure to pay fines by restricting access to other municipal services. This will require additional staff hours in the City Solicitor's budget by the addition of a new Municipal Hearings Officer.

Rebuilding our Aging Infrastructure

Keeping pace with our aging infrastructure is both a necessity and challenge. One glaring example I can cite is the harsh winter we just experienced and the resulting damages to our city streets. This budget maintains the current level of manpower in our Public Works Department and adds a desperately needed mechanic. Superintendent Goodwin has made the addition of a mechanic a top priority and we agree with his assessment. It is our hope that we can reduce the amount of money spent out the outside servicing of municipal vehicles and equipment.

Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund

Total non payroll spending in the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund in FY15 is \$18,424,381. It's no surprise that work being done with regards to updates and improvements to our water and sewer infrastructure are the most costly. While we are appropriating resources needed to meet our obligations under the currently negotiated Consent Decree, we continue to challenge the city's ability to pay for repairs needed to resolve more than 100 years of neglect in an unrealistic 10 year time period. Our Water & Sewer rate payers should not be subjected to such draconian terms and conditions. It is my hope that we will see some relief from this decree in the near future. For the purposes of this budget, rate assessments by the MWRA have increased by \$354,396.

In closing, the annual budget process is no easy task. I appreciate the hard work and cooperation we received from all of our department heads. I cannot say enough about the long hours, time, and effort put forth by our entire Finance Department, led by Director of Finance George Anzuoni and Auditor Laurie Giardella. Their tireless work ensured that this budget was ready for timely submission to your honorable body. We continue to work towards receiving accreditation by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for excellence in public budgeting.

I look forward to working with you over the coming weeks to enact the proposed FY15 spending plan for municipal operations.

**Subject matter was referred to Ways and Means
Committee.**

14-142 6. Comm. from the Mayor:

Re: Transfers

I am requesting from your Honorable Body, the approval of transfers to cover deficits from appropriated accounts that are projected to have surplus balances at the end of Fiscal year 2014. These monies will be necessary to fund the short fall in the accounts listed on the attached pages within this transmittal. It is anticipated that there may be a need to request further transfers before the fiscal year end. The City Auditor has verified the availability of funds included in this request.

Beginning with the accounts that are in need of transfers to cover deficits:

In June of 2013, when deliberating the FY 14' budget, despite our request to the contrary, the City Council cut the Auditor's Insurance account which pays the premiums for the property, vehicle, educators' legal, and public officials insurance for the City. The policy premiums, as we knew they would be, were more than what was appropriated. In addition, the Auditor Over time account fell short as a result of multiple construction projects, RevStat reporting, and new budget formatting that resulted in the need of additional man-hours.

The Mayor's Labor Relations account covers the cost of Labor Attorney(s) during Contract Negotiations; with virtually every union out of contract, these fees were increased because of the ongoing negotiations between the City and various Unions during the fiscal year.

The Fire Department overtime is a result of variable staffing needs with the increase and decrease of staff based on retirements, injuries, and the like. Additionally, the Fire Automotive account is in deficit due to increased fuel costs and necessary repairs to some aging equipment.

The Treasurers Workers' Compensation account and the Workers' Compensation medical expenditures are estimated at the time the budget is prepared and submitted to the Council for approval. In Fiscal year 2014, these expenses were higher than anticipated given a number of unforeseen injuries within various departments.

The Police overtime is higher this year due to a number of unanticipated staffing injuries (7), increased city wide community events and training needs. The Police grant increase is the result of a three year contract, required by M.G.L. 30b, with an outside service provider.

Planning & Community Development's salary sick leave buy back is in deficit due to the retirement of our project engineer.

The DPW traffic signal repair is an account that varies from year to year. The nature of the account is unpredictable because it depends on the number of accidents which occur during the year that cause damage to our traffic signals. There was also a need that was identified to improve on the safety of our residents resulting in an increase in contracted painting for crosswalks.

The Council on Elder Affairs sick leave buyback shortage was due to the retirement of the Director of Elder Affairs.

Water/Sewer Enterprise fund-Sewer Division labor force overtime is projected to be in deficit due to a number of extraordinary breaks which have occurred during the fiscal year.

Water/Sewer Enterprise fund-Water Division labor force overtime is projected to be in deficit due to a number of extraordinary breaks which have occurred during the fiscal year.

Water/Sewer Enterprise fund-Water/Billing Division labor force overtime is projected to be in deficit due primarily to the conversion to an upgrade in the Govern Software system which required numerous additional hours in troubleshooting and training.

The accounts that are projected to have a surplus are as follows:

In the Fire department, medical expenses are estimated and vary depending on the number of injuries and the medical costs associated. The resulting surplus in Fire, Lt., regular, and permanent salary accounts are attributable to the delay in replacing retiring personnel and those out with injuries resulting in disability payments.

The Director of Finance/Treasurer/Collector is attributed to timing of bonded debt borrowings, which may be a result of the capital needs of a capital project.

Police department surpluses can be attributed to the timing in the hiring of new police officers, and a number of unanticipated disability injuries, as well as the needs within the department which varies with regards to costs that support the operations of Police Department.

The Planning & Community Development's surplus resulted from the delayed hiring of a new project engineer.

The DPW trash removal is essentially a fixed cost, although in certain years, some of these costs may vary resulting in a surplus.

The identified surplus in the Council on Elder Affairs was a result of the retirement of the prior Director.

The Water/Sewer Enterprise fund surpluses are the result of disability injuries and unfilled positions for employees out on disability in both the Sewer & Water Divisions. The Water/Sewer Billing Division is a result of a reduction in the MWRA assessment of the appropriated amount in fiscal year 2014, and cannot be anticipated in any future year(s).

Finally, there are other additional deficits that have been identified, specifically in the DPW Snow Removal-Private Contractor account, and in the Solicitor's outside legal services, legal settlements, and execution accounts. It is anticipated that these deficits will be covered either as charges on the FY2015 recap, through a transfer request, or a combination of both. A second request will be forwarded to the City Council as the year wraps up and numbers become more concrete.

I am respectfully requesting the following Transfers:

From:		To:	
Dir of Finance/Collector/Treasurer		Auditor	
Workers' Compensation	\$ 15,000	Insurance	\$ 65,000
Interest on Long Term Debt	\$ 31,500	Overtime	\$ 1,500
Veterans' Affairs		Dir of Finance/Collector/Treasurer	
Veterans' Benefits	\$ 65,000	Workers' Comp Medical Benefits	\$ 30,000
		Mayor	
		Labor Negotiations	\$ 15,000

From:
Department of Public Works
 Rubbish Removal \$ 45,000

To:
Department of Public Works
 Traffic Signal Repair \$ 15,000
 Contracted Painted Services \$ 30,000

From:
Council on Elder Affairs
 Additional Differential \$ 5,000
 Permanent Salaries \$ 11,500

To:
Council on Elder Affairs
 Salary Sick Leave Buy Back \$ 15,100
 Educational Incentive \$ 1,400

From:
Fire Department
 Additional Differential \$ 25,000
 Fire Lt. Salary \$ 90,000
 Permanent Salaries \$ 50,000
 Medical Expenses \$ 20,000

To:
Fire Department
 Salary Overtime \$ 170,000
 Building Maint & Repair \$ 15,000

From:
Planning & Community Development
 Permanent Salaries \$ 12,300

To:
Planning & Community Development
 Salary Sick Leave Buy Back \$ 12,300

From:
Police Department
 Police Patrol Officers Reg Salary \$ 250,000
 Holiday Pay \$ 30,000
 Medical Expenses \$ 20,000
 Computer Services \$ 7,000

To:
Police Department
 Other Salaries-Court/Night OT \$ 300,000
 Grant writer \$ 7,000

From:
Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund
Sewer Division
 Labor Force Salaries \$ 20,000

To:
Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund
Sewer Division
 Labor Force Overtime \$ 20,000

From:
Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund
Water Division
 Labor Force Salaries \$ 40,000

To:
Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund
Water Division
 Labor Force Overtime \$ 40,000

From:
Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund
Water/Sewer Billing Division
 Labor Force Salaries \$ 23,000

To:
Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund
Water/Sewer Billing Division
 Labor Force Overtime \$ 23,000

Motion presented by Councillor Penta: That the following sums be appropriated by transferring said sums as follows:

From:
Dir of Finance/Collector/Treasurer
 Workers' Compensation \$ 15,000
 Interest on Long Term Debt \$ 31,500

To:
Auditor
 Insurance \$ 65,000
 Overtime \$ 1,500

Veterans' Affairs
Veterans' Benefits \$ 65,000

Dir of Finance/Collector/Treasurer
Workers' Comp Medical Benefits \$ 30,000

From:
Department of Public Works
Rubbish Removal \$ 45,000

Mayor
Labor Negotiations \$ 15,000
To:
Department of Public Works
Traffic Signal Repair \$ 15,000
Contracted Painted Services \$ 30,000

From:
Council on Elder Affairs
Additional Differential \$ 5,000
Permanent Salaries \$ 11,500

To:
Council on Elder Affairs
Salary Sick Leave Buy Back \$ 15,100
Educational Incentive \$ 1,400

From:
Fire Department
Additional Differential \$ 25,000
Fire Lt. Salary \$ 90,000
Permanent Salaries \$ 50,000
Medical Expenses \$ 20,000

To:
Fire Department
Salary Overtime \$ 170,000
Building Maint & Repair \$ 15,000

From:
Planning & Community Development
Permanent Salaries \$ 12,300

To:
Planning & Community Development
Salary Sick Leave Buy Back \$ 12,300

From:
Police Department
Police Patrol Officers Reg Salary \$ 250,000
Holiday Pay \$ 30,000
Medical Expenses \$ 20,000
Computer Services \$ 7,000

To:
Police Department
Other Salaries-Court/Night OT \$ 300,000
Grant writer \$ 7,000

From:
Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund
Sewer Division
Labor Force Salaries \$ 20,000

To:
Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund
Sewer Division
Labor Force Overtime \$ 20,000

From:
Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund
Water Division
Labor Force Salaries \$ 40,000

To:
Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund
Water Division
Labor Force Overtime \$ 40,000

From:
Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund
Water/Sewer Billing Division
Labor Force Salaries \$ 23,000

To:
Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund
Water/Sewer Billing Division
Labor Force Overtime \$ 23,000

Transfers were Ordered on a Roll Call: Councillors Arrigo, Giannino, Guinasso, Haas, Morabito, Novoselsky, Patch, Penta, Powers, Reardon, and Council President Zambuto voting “YES”.

Public Hearings

14-126A 6. Hearing called as ordered on a proposed loan order for CWSRF Planning Project No. 3908 - \$1,200,000 for Field Investigations, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, SSES Phase VI Investigations and supplemental CWMP/CSMP services.

Proponents

**Mayor Dan Rizzo
Bob Button, CDM Smith
John Doherty, CDM Smith**

Opponents

None

Hearing held, subject matter referred to Ways and Means.

14-126B 7. Hearing called as ordered on a proposed loan order for CWSRF Planning Project No. 3909 - \$700,000 for field investigations related to determination of illicit sewer connections and sump pumps including required house to house inspections.

Proponents

**Mayor Dan Rizzo
Bob Button, CDM Smith
John Doherty, CDM Smith**

Opponents

None

Hearing held, subject matter referred to Ways and Means.

14-126C 8. Hearing called as ordered on a proposed loan order for CWSRF Construction Project No. 3910 - \$15,000,000 for construction of stormwater and wastewater collection systems capital improvements.

Proponents

**Mayor Dan Rizzo
Bob Button, CDM Smith
John Doherty, CDM Smith**

Opponents

None

Hearing held, subject matter referred to Ways and Means.

Committee Reports

9. Report of the Ways and Means Sub-Committee Meeting

14-012 Motion relative to the City Council office supplies account.

Ordered received and placed on file.

14-033 Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Policy

Ordered on a Motion of Councillor Penta: That the City Council moves to adopt the City of Revere Fraud, Waste and Abuse Policy and further, that said policy be distributed throughout City Hall and the Revere School Department.

14-057 Annual financial report for FY2013.

Ordered received and placed on file.

14-058 Standard & Poor's rating services upgrade report.

Ordered received and placed on file.

14-068 Establishment of a Human Resources Department.

Ordered referred to Legislative Affairs.

14-108 Senior Citizen Work-Off Abatement for water and sewer bill reduction.

Ordered received and placed on file.

14-119 Renovations to City Hall – Free Cash appropriation.

Subject matter remain in Committee.

14-123 Wheelabrator Saugus, Inc. – trash disposal account

Ordered on a Motion of Councilor Patch: That the City Council hereby authorizes the execution of the waste disposal contract by and between the City of Revere and Wheelabrator Saugus, Inc. for the period beginning on January 1, 2015 and expiring on June 30, 2024.

10. Report of the Appointment sub-committee

The Appointment sub committee recommends confirmation of the following appointees.

14-071 Re-appointment of Thomas Abate, 106 Squire Rd., Revere, MA as Assistant Harbormaster for a 3 year term.

14-113 Appointment of Sean Farrell Excavating, Inc., 53 Gilbert St., Quincy, MA as a Licensed Drain Layer.

14-130 Re-Appointment of Christopher Clark, 98 Whitin Avenue, Revere, MA as a Harbormaster for a 3 year term.

14-130 Re-appointment of John Hurley, 10 Gilbert Ave., Revere, MA as a Harbormaster, for a new 3 year term,

14-130 Re-appointment of Eugene McKenna, 29 Payson St., Revere, MA as a member of the Planning Board, for a new 5 year term.

14-132 Appointment of Ciciotti & Construction, LLC, 145 Burrill St., Swampscott, MA as a Licensed Drain Layer.

Motion to confirm was declared Ordered on a Roll Call: Councillors Arrigo, Giannino, Guinasso, Haas, Morabito, Novoselsky, Patch, Penta, Powers, Reardon, and Council President Zambuto voting "YES".

14-094 Re: Appointment of Mennino Construction Co., was referred back to Committee.

Communications

14-143 11. Comm. from the Mayor:

Please be advised that in accordance with the provisions of Title 13, Chapter 13.08, Section 13.08.435 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Revere, as most recently amended, I hereby request that Ralph Meola, Meola Construction Corp. 157-165 Clark Avenue, Chelsea, MA be reappointed as a licensed drainlayer for the City of Revere.

Please take careful notice that all drainlayer licenses expire on April 1st, annually, unless sooner revoked by the Mayor and the City Council.

Mr. Meola has been advised that he will be contacted directly by the Appointment sub-committee with a date and time to appear before them concerning this appointment.

Ordered on a Motion of Councillor Guinasso: That upon the appointment of Ralph Meola, Meola Construction Corp., as a licensed drain layer for the City of Revere, the same be and hereby is confirmed.

14-144 12. Communication from the Mayor:

Please be advised that in accordance with the provisions of Title 13, Chapter 13.08, Section 13.08.435 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Revere, as most recently amended, I hereby request that Terratec Construction Inc., P.O. Box 738, Marlborough MA be appointed as a Licensed drainlayer for the City of Revere.

Please take careful notice that all drainlayer licenses expire on April 1st, annually, unless sooner revoked by the Mayor and the City Council.

Mr. Ferreira has been advised that he will be contacted directly by the Appointment sub-committee with a date and time to appear before them concerning this appointment.

Ordered referred to the Appointment sub-committee.

14-145 13. Communication from JoAnne and Andrew Burke:

Please see the attached letter I have written in regard to what I believe to be surplus property that abuts my property at 16 Pierview Avenue. If you would be so kind to review the letter and guide me in my approach on this matter.

Ordered referred to the Economic Development and Land Sales Committee.

Motions

14-137 14. Ordered on a Motion presented by Councillor Novoselsky: That the Mayor request the Superintendent of Public Works to repair the public stairs between Campbell Avenue and North Shore Road adjacent to 1709 and 1695 North Shore Road. Rats are burrowing below the stairs and causing a public safety hazard for the residents in the area. All holes shall be filled with concrete or type of epoxy to prevent the rats from digging.

14-138 15. Ordered on a Motion presented by Councillor Guinasso: That the Mayor request the Traffic Commission to hold a public hearing for the installation of a handicap parking at 20 Beach Road.

14-139 16. Ordered on a Motion of Councillor Zambuto: That the City Council present a Certificate of Commendation to Jeremy Neary-Orne in recognition of him attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

Ordered on a Motion of Councillor Zambuto: That the City Council now stands adjourned to meet on Monday, June 9, 2014 at 6:00 P.M.

Ordered adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Attest:

City Clerk