

Amesbury Municipal Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 22, 2005
Town Hall Auditorium

Pledge of Allegiance – Councilor Benson

Roll Call: Robert Woodsom, Roger Benson, James Chandler, Ann Connolly King, Esther Headley, Anne Larnard, Christopher Lawrence, Mario Pinierio, Joseph McMilleon

2005-124 An Order to vote to appropriate \$30,000 of Free Cash to be used to make emergency repairs on the Ordway Building/Senior Center – Mayor Hildt sponsor

President McMilleon reads 2005-124 into the record and declares the public hearing open.

James Thieverge wants to know the balance of the reserve fund and why is free cash being used instead of the reserve fund.

President McMilleon closes the public hearing and reads the emergency preamble from Mayor Hildt and calls for a vote to accept the emergency preamble.

Councilor Benson moves to accept 2005-124 as an emergency.

Councilor Pinierio second

Voted – Unanimous

Councilor Lawrence would like to know the balance of the reserve fund. Councilor Benson feels the money could come from reserve for unforeseen but generally that balance ends up in the stabilization fund at the end of the year. He states that he has a verbal agreement from Mayor Hildt to put the balance of free cash into the stabilization fund after the expenditures tonight. Councilor Larnard states that the practice has been to put \$50,000 in reserve for unforeseen and that has not been used at all this year.

Councilor Benson moves for approval of 2005-124 as submitted

Councilor Larnard second

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous

2005-101A – Police Communication Center \$250,000

President McMilleon reads 2005-101A and opens the public hearing.

James Thivierge of Sanborn Terrace would like to see the fire and police dispatchers consolidated and feels the reserve fund should be used not free cash.

President McMilleon closes the public hearing.

Councilor Benson moves for approval of 2005-101A as submitted.

Councilor King second

Councilor Pinierio asks if the Police Department will be able to communicate with the National Guard and Homeland Security with the new system. Chief Cronin states yes as well as with FEMA but not with Emergency Management. Emergency Management is a separate entity and should remain separate, they provide different services. Councilor Pinierio asks if the equipment in the vehicles will have to be updated; Chief Cronin states he has no way of knowing until they go out to bid.

President McMilleon asks about expansion. Chief Cronin explains that there will be two active sites on in the police and one in the fire department that will be interoperable with the police. It will have the capability to combine the dispatchers after cross training. President McMilleon asks how long the transition from the old system to the new will be. Chief Cronin states it is about 90 to 120 days. You have to take into account for delivery, construction of the system and actual construction at the police station.

Councilor Chandler agrees with the need for a new system but has a severe problem with the way it was budgeted. He feels it should have been on a capital improvement plan before the operating budget was submitted. He also feels the \$173,000 that was found in a special police account should have been used for the communication system and not for new cruisers/SUV. He states he will vote against 2005-101A not because he feels it is not needed but they way they are paying for it

Councilor Larnard states there is a need for the new system and at this point there isn't any advantage for the town to delay it, she will be supporting 2005-101A tonight.

Councilor Benson moves for approval of 2005-101A as submitted.

Councilor King second

Roll Call Vote – 7 Yes, 2 No (Chandler, Pinierio)

Councilor Benson motion to adjourn 7:30pm

Councilor Larnard second

Voted – Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Assistant Town Clerk