

COMPREHENSIVE CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: 2024-04-05
Time: 07:30 – 09:00 o'clock
Meeting called to order by: Chris Doyle

IN ATTENDANCE

- Chris Doyle (Chair)
 - Claus Becker (Scribe)
 - Pat Brusch
 - Susan Burgess-Cox
 - Deepak Garg
 - Larry Link
 - Aaron Pikcilingis
 - Jung Yueh
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- Jay Marcotte (Director of Public Works, Belmont Town Administration)
 - Matthew Haskell (Budget Analyst, Belmont Town Administration)
 - David Coleman
 - Dave Blazon (Director of Facilities, Belmont Town Administration)
 - Pending appointment, Selectboard member Matt Taylor was in attendance

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: April 26, 2024
TIME: 10:33 AM

ABSENT

- None

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

David Blazon presented slides concerning the Chenery heating options prepared with Jennifer Hewitt. Chenery project necessarily has several phases, starting with replacement of thirty boilers which are 26 years old and run on fossil gas. Later, roof repair and replacement of roof HVAC units. Total project cost is estimated to be ~\$8M.

Town's proposal is to fund the boilers this year, by allocation from free cash. Committee could make recommendation to appropriate to this project now, or put into capital stabilization fund, tagged for Chenery boilers. The latter would provide more time for planning but runs the risk of boiler failure at inopportune moment. Committee discussed if supermajority needed to retrieve funds later.

Committee discussed ideas for reducing cost of or delaying the timing of the project. Suggestions including using insulation to reduce demand on existing boilers, running the heating fluid at lower temperature. The Committee learned that all boilers supply entire building so the failure of one boiler would not mean that a particular part of the school would be adversely affected. Also, it is rare

that all thirty boilers are used at the same time. There is also a risk that rooftop HVAC units would fail.

Jay Marcotte presented on cemetery drainage, as flooding has been a problem. Committee discussed funding sources including Chapter 90 (roads or sidewalks) or sewer/storm water funds. Glenn Clancy will investigate admissibility of using Chapter 90 funds for cemetery roads which are not normally included as part of town's road mileage. Amount of Chapter 90 funding is calculated based on road miles.

Budget requests had been updated. Town Administration removed request for town master plan and recreation plan, after the Committee had discussed whether they were appropriate for capital budgeting. Town will look for other sources of funding.

Committee members had ranked all proposals. Skating rink turf was lowest ranked followed by street tree planning, and video cams.

Committee discussed rejecting lower priorities and adding to capital stabilization fund and unanimously agree to this.

The Committee agreed to reserve next two Fridays for meetings.

There were no questions from the public.

Meeting was adjourned at 09:00 o'clock.