

2015 MAR 26 PM 2:35

**MINUTES**  
**Town of Belmont**  
**CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**Town Hall Conference Room 4**  
**Wednesday, March 11, 2015**  
**8:00 AM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Capital Budget Committee (CBC) was called to order at 8:08 a.m. by Chair Mahoney.

Members Present: Chair Anne Marie Mahoney, Patricia Brusch, Sami Baghdady (BOS), Michael Battista (PB), Anne Lougee (SC), and Rebecca Vose

David Kale, Town Administrator and Phyllis Marshall, Assistant Town Administrator

Members Absent: Jenny Fallon

Chair Mahoney began by requesting that the CBC provide its feedback on the Financial Task Force Capital Subgroup's report. Also, she requested that the CBC give feedback on the bonding proposal as it pertains to the override.

**Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of February 26, 2015 were approved unanimously, after adjustments.

**Proposed Override Bonding**

Mr. Kale explained the bonding of the fire engine and the ladder truck. He then noted that the high school fire alarm system will need to be updated. The bonding of a new alarm system will tie into the bonding of the fire apparatus. The length of the financing will depend on when a new high school gets approved. He then explained that the CBC could fund the new alarm system when, in FY16, the fire breathing apparatus is paid off. The CBC would be swapping one debt (fire breathing apparatus) for another debt (new alarm system in FY17). This is within the CBC's policy guidelines.

Mr. Kale noted that he is in conversation with the Town Treasurer, Floyd Carman, regarding the timing of these items.

Mrs. Brusch noted that Moody's will examine this transaction. Chair Mahoney asked why the alarm system wasn't listed as a school priority all along? Mrs. Brusch explained the history of the alarm system, its maintenance, the HVAC system, and how all this relates to the MSBA.

The CBC discussed factors relating to a new alarm system at the high school, e.g., the cost of maintaining the existing system, selling the existing system, acquiring a cheaper system, and a

plan for bonding a new system being aware that this new system could be installed for a short time before a new High School is built, potentially rendering the new fire alarm with little or no residual value. Gerry Boyle, Director of Facilities, is researching the pricing of a new system, including labor. Chair Mahoney noted that this issue will need to be raised with the School Department when it presents its list of capital priorities. Mr. Kale advised the Committee that the high school may need modular space, which is expensive, as a result of increasing enrollment.

Mr. Kale then raised the topic of the police radio system, which is past its useful life. This is an expensive item (\$1M), which will be a phased purchase.

Mrs. Brusch raised the topic of the wording of the override ballot question; she then asked about the intent of various override funding allocations for future years. Selectman Baghdady said that the Board is aware of the capital needs of the town. He added that future override funding is not currently committed to. Mrs. Brusch and Selectman Baghdady discussed the intended use of future override money.

Topics relating to the override plan were discussed. Selectman Baghdady noted that this is largely an operating budget override, although the Board would like to support roads, sidewalks, and smaller capital needs. Mrs. Brusch suggested that the Board state clearly how the override money will be spent.

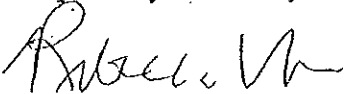
Mr. Kale ran through some of the override allocations: \$2.9M in FY16 and \$2.9M in FY17. He noted that some funding (\$1.6M) could be banked and then placed where it is most needed. For example, in year two, money may need to go to SPED (depending on the number and needs of new SPED students). Things change quickly, he said, and it's hard to say *now* what will be most needed in FY17 or FY18.

#### Next Meetings

Tuesday,	March 24, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.	(CPA, Library, IT, Clerk)
Friday,	March 27 at 8:00 a.m.	(Police, DPW, Community Development)
Thursday,	April 9 at 5:00 p.m.	(Fire, Facilities and School)
Tuesday,	April 14 at 8:00 a.m.	(CBC discussion)
Thursday,	April 30 at 5:00 p.m.	(CBC discussion and vote)

The CBC moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Vose  
Secretary