

2016 FEB -8 AM 11:02

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEE  
Town Hall Selectman's Room  
Thursday, November 12, 2015  
5:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Capital Budget Committee (CBC) was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Chair Anne Marie Mahoney.

Members Present: Chair Mahoney, M. Patricia Brusch, Mark Paolillo (BOS) [arrived at 5:25 p.m.], Jennifer Fallon (WC), Susan Burgess-Cox (SC), and Rebecca Vose

Also Present: David Kale, Town Administrator

Members Absent: Michael Battista (PB)

Chair Mahoney began by turning to the first item on the agenda.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of October 15, 2015 were approved, with one adjustment, and with one abstention.

The CBC discussed the Town Clerk's recent request with regard to minutes' submissions and meeting postings. Mr. Kale suggested that Bob Reardon, Communications Specialist, could be of assistance with this process.

**Capital Project Updates**

***Minuteman***

Mr. Kale provided a brief synopsis concerning the Minuteman presentation, held last week. There were several presentations, including one from Bob McLaughlin and Jack Weis. The process is moving forward and the Minuteman School Committee will vote next week. It seems that supporting the current process (approving the project) might make more sense than not approving the project, although both options are not optimal.

Mr. Kale reviewed the Belmont's potential fiscal contribution numbers.

The CBC then discussed the options. Ms. Fallon stated that a revamping of the district towns needs to happen, but it is unlikely to happen. Ms. Brusch agreed and stated that non-member towns could then explore other vocational education programs, e.g., Shawsheen.

Selectman Paolillo stated that there will be significant cost to Belmont, whichever option is pursued. He said it is difficult to know the best direction to go. The situation is discouraging. Minuteman's assessment for repair costs is about \$100M. However, this is a questionable number.

The CBC then discussed Belmont's Minuteman enrollment over the years.

Selectman Paolillo said that the regional agreement needs to be rewritten and the district needs need to be redrawn to include current non-member towns that enroll significant numbers of students. Either that, or these non-member towns need to pay a fair contribution toward capital costs and toward the operating budget. He stated that it is likely that Minuteman will move forward and that the Board of Selectmen will need to make a recommendation to Town Meeting.

### ***School Space***

Modular units will likely be needed for next September and they will cost money.

### ***Rink Proposal***

The School Department will be testing the soil as part of exploring options for relocating the rink. The proposed new rink will be sited close to the train tracks and the MBTA will want to be kept in the loop. Ms. Fallon noted that the disposition of the field house will be very relevant to the CBC's discussions. Ms. Bruschi stated that the field house will not likely be paid for by the hockey association. The conversation is moving forward overall, said Mr. Kale. Among possible program models are some designed to generate income.

### **Addressing Outstanding Capital Projects – Coordinating, Prioritizing, Funding**

Chair Mahoney then turned to four outstanding projects: Belmont High School, Police Station, Library, DPW. All four of these facilities are in need of repair and the town is vulnerable to law suits on disability access with regard to the Police Station and the Library.

Ms. Bruschi provided a brief Library update. Mr. Kale added that fiscal support will need to be shown, should the Library receive the green light from the state.

Ms. Fallon noted that the high school project is only getting more expensive, as the years go by.

Ms. Vose added that ball-park estimates for *all* of the projects would be helpful. Mr. Kale stated that the DPW was estimated to be in the \$28-30M range and that the cost of the Police Station was currently being explored. A potential location for a new police station is the incinerator site.

Selectman Paolillo raised the topic of moving the Police Station to the present Library site. This dovetailed into a conversation about where the Library would go. He offered some "out-of-the box" thinking on the re-location of the Police Station and the Library. He will explore some of these possibilities as to their potential viability.

Chair Mahoney suggested that information (site location, etc.) continued to be gathered and that fiscal estimates continue to be explored. The CBC agreed that it needs to explore various options for these remaining projects. Members also agreed that these capital projects need to be evaluated from a "community perspective." The Board of Selectmen, the CBC, etc. will need to consider what is best for the entire community and not look at each project in isolation.

The CBC discussed the funding options for these projects. A question was raised: Does it make sense to combine some of the projects, from a bonding perspective? Ms. Bruschi said it would be helpful if the Town Treasurer ran some bonding numbers. The CBC agreed that the numbers need to be run and that the fiscal impact evaluated. Ms. Bruschi raised the issue of eschewing the MSBA and "going it alone" on the high school.

### **Miscellaneous**

#### ***FY16 CBC***

Chair Mahoney asked about capital budget FY17 needs. Mr. Kale said that modular units will need to be acquired, whether they are leased or bought. This will involve equipment costs, as well. Regarding the budget allocation, Mr. Kale stated that the CBC should be level funded, but that this is not definitive.

#### ***The CBC's Five-Year Plan***

This plan will need to be assessed in the near future.

#### **Setting of Future Meeting Dates**

A date will be set for early January, once more scheduling information is gathered.

The CBC moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Vose  
Secretary