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**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
Town Hall Conference Room 4
Thursday, April 4, 2019
8:00 AM**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Capital Budget Committee (CBC) was called to order at 8:02 a.m. by Chair Anne Marie Mahoney.

Members Present: Chair Mahoney, M. Patricia Brusch, Adam Dash (BOS), Jenny Fallon (WC) Susan Burgess-Cox (SC), and Rebecca Vose

Members Absent: Karl Haglund (PB)

Also present: Floyd Carman, Town Treasurer; Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator; John Marshall, Assistant Town Administrator; Matt Haskell, Administrative Assistant; Glen Castro, Budget Analyst

Chair Mahoney began by reviewing the agenda. She then turned to the first item on the agenda.

Community Preservation (CP) Projects for Town Meeting

Mr. Carman began by reviewing the eight CP projects:

Belmont Police Station	Historic Preservation	\$787,575.10
Town Hall Complex Slate Roofs	Historic Preservation	\$100K
Restoration of the Tower Clock	Historic Preservation	\$66,250
Community Path Phase 1B	Open Space/Rec.	\$1M
Town Field Playground Restoration	Open Space/Rec.	\$700K (\$60K now)
Payson Park Music Festival Bandstand	Open Space/Rec.	\$90K
Clay Pit Pond Preservation	Open Space/Rec.	\$20K
Rock Meadow Habitat Preservation	Open Space	\$25,400

Mr. Carman raised a concern about the Tower Clock restoration project. It is a church-sponsored project, he said, which raises the issue of "separation of church and state." Research conducted to determine ownership of the clock is a bit ambiguous but suggests that the Town paid for the original clock. Mr. Carman expressed concern about the timing of the project, vis-à-vis the high school building project. Mr. Dash noted that the Warrant Committee last night approved the other CP projects – but delayed voting on this item until it had more information from Town Counsel. This information will be available to all committees before the item is voted.

Chair Mahoney provided some background information on the Police Station.

Ms. Vose stated that she would recuse herself from the First Church Clock Tower project vote, as she is a contributor to the church.

CBC Votes on the CP Projects

Belmont Police Station – \$787,575.10

Ms. Fallon moved: Favorable action on this CP project.
The motion passed unanimously.

Town Hall Complex Slate Roofs – \$100K

Ms. Brusch moved: Favorable action on this CP project.
The motion passed unanimously.

Restoration of the Tower Clock – \$66,250

The CBC did *not* vote on this project today.

Community Path Phase 1B – \$1M

Ms. Fallon moved: Favorable action on this CP project.
The motion passed unanimously.

Town Field Playground Restoration – \$60K

Ms. Brusch moved: Favorable action on this CP project.
The motion passed unanimously.

Payson Park Music Festival Bandstand – \$90K

Ms. Fallon moved: Favorable action on this CP project.
The motion passed unanimously.

Clay Pit Pond Preservation – \$20K

Ms. Brusch moved: Favorable action on this CP project.
The motion passed unanimously.

Rock Meadow Habitat Preservation – \$25,400

Ms. Fallon moved: Favorable action on this CP project.
The motion passed unanimously.

Bonding Capacity

The CBC asked Mr. Carman what would be possible to bond this year – in other words, they requested more information on the town’s debt capacity. He provided some background information on the town’s borrowing capacity.

He will return to the CBC meeting at 9:30 with more detailed information on the town’s borrowing capacity.

Straw Poll

The CBC discussed various projects that have requested Capital Budget funding. The amount of money available to spend was clarified:

CBC Funding:
\$1.4M (from the budget)
+ \$ 163K (turn-backs)

~\$1.6M available to spend

For the initial round of voting, Chair Mahoney requested that each CBC member present express a “yes,” “no,” or “maybe” on each request. The *yes* votes will be totaled; if there is any money left over, the *maybe* projects will be considered.

Bonding Capacity (*continued*)

Committee members discussed the Town’s bonding capacity with Mr. Carman in light of the high school project and the Town’s recent conversation with ratings agencies. The issue that members are grappling with is funding a new Pumper Truck for Fire, a big-ticket item that will consume a large share of this year’s capital budget allocation, unless some or all of it is funded from another source.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of March 7, 2019 were approved as amended with one abstention.

Setting of Future Meeting Dates:

Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.

The CBC moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Vose, Secretary

