

2020 FEB 19 AM 8:31

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEE  
Town Hall Conference Room 1  
Thursday, February 6, 2020  
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 Anne Marie Mahoney.

Members Present: Chair Mahoney, Susan Burgess-Cox (SC), Adam Dash (SB), Jenny Fallon (WC), and Rebecca Vose

Members Absent: M. Patricia Brush and Karl Haglund (PB)

Also Present: Jon Marshall, Assistant Town Administrator, Fire Chief David Frizzell, Assistant Fire Chief Wayne Haley and Police Chief James MacIsaac

**Fire Department Capital Requests for FY2021**

Chief Frizzell began by reporting on the two open FY2018 Fire Department projects. The Spill Response Trailer is complete with roughly \$3,000 left over. The Fire Squad Replacement is nearing completion and he anticipates a modest surplus will be turned back.

The Fire Pumper requested in FY2020 has been ordered, and its technical specifications are being nailed down. The BFD still has to procure equipment to complete the vehicle, something the Fire Department does to save money, rather than have the manufacturer equip it.

For FY2021, the BFD is requesting a Shift Commander Vehicle (SCV). The current 2015 model will be five years old and the back-up is nearing 14 years old with 64,850 miles. The back-up is becoming unreliable; a recent repair cost \$1300.00. The SCV carries emergency equipment and responds to incidents. It is also used by the Shift Commander to perform administrative duties. The total cost to purchase and kit-out the new SCV is \$66,150.

Replacing the BFD's portable radios is the next request. Both the SCV and radio replacement are high priority. The radios are exposed to toxic air, high heat and other environmental and rough handling abuses in the course of the department's work. The back-up radios are between ten and fifteen years old and the manufacturer, Motorola, no longer supports them.

Ms. Fallon asked if these back-up radios could be shifted to use by the Facilities Department, which has requested radios this year. Unfortunately, Chief Frizzell explained that the BFD radios use a public safety frequency and cannot realistically be converted to use for a non-public safety purpose.

The cost of the radio replacement project is \$150,000. Mr. Marshall explained that the Town Administrator prefers to purchase all the radios this year and defer the SCV to the next or a future fiscal year. The Chief, however, feels strongly that continuing to put money into the back-up SCV is unwise. And being sensitive to the fiscal crunch Belmont faces in FY2021, Chief Frizzell recommends purchasing the SCV and half of the replacement radios this year and the rest of the radios next year, with a total outlay of \$150,000.

The next requests are for the annual allocations for ambulance and EMS replacement to be funded from EMS revenue. The CBC had for some time recommended annual appropriations of \$50,000 and \$7,000 respectively for this program. Ambulance replacement cost has risen so the requested amount for FY2021 is \$65,000, making the total request \$72,000 for this year.

### **Police Department Requests**

Police Chief MacIsaac made his debut appearance before the CBC, having recently been appointed to the position. The Police Department has no capital requests for FY2021, however, Chief MacIsaac addressed some topics of interest to the Committee. First, he explained that for FY2021 only, police cruisers have been removed from his operating budget. This takes pressure off the Police operating budget and allows him to retain positions. Mr. Marshall explained that cruisers will be restored to the BPD operating budget pending a successful override.

Chief MacIsaac also explained that the Police Department assigns a School Resource Officer (SRO) to both the Chenery Middle School and BHS. It is important to signal the presence of a police officer at each school with a parked cruiser. That puts two cruiser out of action for the duration of the school day complicating the assignment of cruisers to patrol the town.

The Chief also discussed the shortfall in the building committee budget for FF&E (furniture, fixtures and equipment) for the renovated Police headquarters. Chair Mahoney, who also chairs the DPW/BPD Building Committee, explained that the original amount allocated for FF&E was \$250K but it now appears that the actual amount is closer to \$350K. She is reaching out to Belmont Savings Bank for a grant to cover the lion's share of this sum. There is also money left-over from a Mugar Grant, which will be used to outfit the kitchen.

### **Discussion of FY2021 Budget**

The total amount of discretionary funds that the CBC may recommend appropriating to Town Meeting is \$1,475,268. In response to a question from Chair Mahoney, Mr. Marshall explained that the only capital items that remain in the operating budget are from IT because of the Town's security needs posed by cyber threats.

Ms. Fallon is curious about the fiber network request from IT that has been an ongoing capital request from that department. Is the work completed? Mr. Marshall believes that Dave Petto has been working with Belmont Light on this project, which may explain why money for the fiber network project was not requested. Other members inquired after the status of the town-wide security system. Mr. Marshall will ask Mr. Petto to brief the CBC on these matters at one of the Committee's up-coming meetings.

Ms. Fallon asked if the CBC will be able to add turn-backs from completed projects to its allocation for FY2021. Mr. Marshall's sense is that the Town Treasurer plans to use turn-back money to pay down the debt for the DPW and BPD building projects. There was some discussion of the potential re-use of the trailers currently occupied by the BPD on Woodland St. They could offer the Town flexible office space for other departments after the Police clear out.

### **Reports on Remaining Building Committees**

Library project is on hiatus, so there's nothing new to report.

BHS BC has received sub-bids. Once opened and reviewed, there will be a better sense of where things stand.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of January 9, 2020 as corrected were approved unanimously.

The CBC moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Vose, Secretary