

DATE: June 22, 2020
TIME: 9:38 AM

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING BY AUDIO AND VISUAL REMOTE ACCESS AND BY TELEPHONE
Thursday, June 3, 2020
8:00 AM**

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Capital Budget Committee (CBC) was called to order at 8:01 a.m. by Chair Anne Marie Mahoney.

Members Present by Audio and Video Remote Access: Chair Mahoney, Adam Dash (SB), Jenny Fallon (WC), and Rebecca Vose

Members Present by Telephone: M. Patricia Brush

Members Absent: Karl Haglund (PB)

Also Present by Audio and Video Remote Access: Jon Marshall, Assistant Town Administrator

Voting of Certain Community Preservation Act (CPA) Projects for FY21

The CBC has not yet voted two CPA projects, each the subject of separate warrant articles for the FY21 Annual Town Meeting session that will be held later this month. The remaining CPA projects will be taken up at a late summer or early fall Town Meeting.

Of the projects that need to be voted now, one is set forth in Article 10 of the FY21 Warrant for the repair of the Town Hall chimney in the amount of \$125,000. The chimney's state of disrepair poses a safety issue.

Ms. Fallon moved: Favorable action on Warrant Article 10 for \$125,000 in CPA funds for the repair of the Town Hall chimney.

Mr. Dash seconded.

The Chair called the Roll and members responded as follows:

Mr. Dash	Yes
Ms. Fallon	Yes
Ms. Vose	Yes
Mrs. Brush	Yes
Mrs. Mahoney	Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

The second CPA request amends a 2018 Town Meeting Article that set-aside \$250,000 for use by the Belmont Housing Trust for creation of affordable housing units, to permit the use of these funds for rental assistance programs. The pandemic has caused wide-spread job loss and reduction in earnings making it difficult for some residents to pay their rent. This CPA request is set forth in Article 11 of the Warrant.

Mrs. Brusch expressed surprise that CPA funds could be used for rental assistance. Mr. Dash explained that it is permissible, and that Belmont is among a group of towns voting to do so this spring. Mrs. Brusch supports this action given the dire effects the current health crisis is having on the local economy, but she is concerned about the precedent this creates for future town meetings. Other committee members said they were not worried because Belmont's Housing Trust has demonstrated its focus on and dedication to creating affordable housing in Town. Mr. Dash explained that the initial notion for using CPA money for rental assistance came from the Select Board, which then proposed the idea to the Housing Trust.

Ms. Fallon moved: Favorable action on Warrant Article 11 for \$250,00 in CPA funds for rental assistance.

Mr. Dash seconded.

The Chair called the Roll and members responded as follows:

Mr. Dash	Yes
Ms. Fallon	Yes
Ms. Vose	Yes
Mrs. Brusch	Yes
Mrs. Mahoney	Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Brusch moved: That the minutes of April 16, 2020 as written be approved.

Ms. Fallon seconded.

The Chair called the Roll and members responded as follows:

Mr. Dash	Yes
Ms. Vose	Yes
Ms. Fallon	Yes
Mrs. Brusch	Yes

Mrs. Mahoney

Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

Updates on Building Projects

Chair Mahoney reported that plans for an open house at the rehabilitated DPW building are on hold. Construction of the Police Department Building continues to progress.

The high school project is moving forward according to Mrs. Brusch. Both FEMA and the CARES Act offer reimbursement of the costs associated with Covid-19 protection for workers for public construction projects. FEMA covers 75% of the cost and CARES covers 25%. Very detailed expense records need to be kept to support applications under both programs. Mrs. Brusch reports that the General Contractor and its subs have done an excellent job of keeping records of these expenses. To date the costs have totaled around \$275,000 but once work begins inside the high school building, they will rise dramatically. Social distancing requirements may necessitate double work shifts, which will drive-up reimbursable expenses.

The CBC moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Vose, Secretary