

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING BY AUDIO AND VISUAL REMOTE ACCESS AND BY TELEPHONE
Thursday, March 25, 2021
8:00 AM**

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: April 12, 2021
TIME: 9:22 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, M. Patricia Brusch, Tom Caputo (SB), Amy Checkoway (SC), Jenny Fallon (WC), Rebecca Vose and Susan Burgess Cox, Liaison to the Planning Board

Also Present: Jon Marshall, Assistant Town Administrator

Discussion of Future Meetings

The next meeting of the CBC will be on April 8 to begin voting FY22 capital budget recommendations. There was consensus among members about the value of meeting with the Select Board to engage in a frank discussion about the capital needs of the Town as well as the CBC's borrowing policy. Mr. Caputo suggested that the borrowing policy for capital projects and purchases be incorporated into the financial policies that the Financial Task Force II will be presenting to the Select Board for consideration and adoption. The meeting between the SB and CBC should occur after the Override Election and before the June Town Meeting. Members also supported arranging a meeting with the School Committee and Superintendent Phelan for a robust conversation about the capital budget and the school system's physical assets. Chair Mahoney asked that as many members of the CBC who can, attend the Warrant Committee meeting at which she will present the FY22 capital budget.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Fallon moved: That the minutes of March 18, 2021, be approved as amended.

Mrs. Brusch seconded.

Ms. Mahoney called the Roll with Members Brusch, Caputo, Fallon, Mahoney and Vose voting in favor and Ms. Checkoway abstaining.

The motion carried 5-0.

Review of Updated FY22 Capital Requests

Mr. Marshall provided the current numbers for requests and referenced the \$500K additional funds that a successful Override vote will add to the FY22 capital budget. He then went line by line through this year's requests to apprise members of what requests have changed, since they were initially submitted.

Accounting:

Tyler Content Manual Software – original request unchanged.

COA:

Belder Bus request has been withdrawn. The state increased its grant to cover the entire cost of this vehicle.

Facilities:

Work Truck Replacement – withdrawn because the money to rehab the truck, a used DPW truck, was previously appropriated.

Butler Phase VI Window Replacement - request reduced from \$225K to \$200K using available turnback funds.

Burbank & Butler Boilers - amount requested will cover both projects.

Chenery Elevator – request raised to \$200K based on new information.

Chenery Cafeteria Compressors – Mrs. Brusch asked for a written request with an explanation of what the project encompasses. Mr. Marshall reported that of the four (4) compressors, two (2) were redone recently so the request covers the remaining ones.

Secure Vestibules at Winn Brook & Burbank – the quotes are a few years old so they will need updating.

Carpet Replacement – request has been pulled.

Wellington Exterior Repairs – Ipe is cracking allowing water to get behind the building's exterior. The building's architect had been willing to share the cost of the fix. His continued willingness needs to be confirmed as the offer was made a few years ago. The amount requested is for the first year of this project only. The use of Ipe, a wood native to So. America, on a building exterior is new in New England. The solution to the problem at the Wellington is likely to be a multi-year process. Mr. Caputo said that the Town needs to conduct more research into the problem and its solution. Ms. Fallon agreed but proposed that the CBC earmark the amount requested in FY22 and take time to determine the true source of the problem.

Building Management System – original request unchanged.

Chenery Roof – Facilities is digging deeper into the roof repair to figure out how best to tackle repair/replacement.

Fire Station #2 Roof Repairs – there are funds left from the insurance settlement with the building contractor but not enough to complete the repair work.

Fire:

Replace Shift Commander's Response Vehicle - original request unchanged.

Ambulance Replacement - original request unchanged.

Cardiac Monitor Replacement - original request unchanged.

Portable Radio Replacement - original request unchanged. Ms. Fallon questioned whether this item is a capital request, or like police vehicles, is more appropriately in Fire's operating budget.

Information Technology:

Phone Infrastructure Upgrade - original request unchanged.

Library:

Extend Useful Life of Existing A/C Equipment – the request is based on an-house estimate.

Upgrade Fire Alarm System – if the system fails it shuts down the library for days to make repairs.

Police:

Replacement of Livescan Fingerprint System - original request unchanged.

Replace File and SQL Server - original request unchanged.

Replace Radio Dispatch Computers - original request unchanged. Chair Mahoney questioned whether this item belongs in the PD's operating budget. Ms. Fallon urged that this technology item be integrated into the IT Department for acquisition, management, and maintenance.

FFE for Renovated Police Station – the bookmarked amount is \$65K but may change between now and June Town Meeting.

Schools:

SAN Storage - original request unchanged.

DPW:

#74 10' Material Spreader - original request unchanged.

#106 19,000 GVW Dump Truck - original request unchanged.

Toro 10' Riding Lawn Mower - original request unchanged.

Sidewalks - original request unchanged.

Nondiscretionary Enterprise Funds:

None of the requests have changed.

Community Development:

Pavement Management - original request unchanged.

Discussion of Topics Related to Capital Budget

In response to a question from Chair Mahoney, Mr. Marshall explained that the Town expects to receive at least as much c.90 funding as last year. He then provided information about what is known about the money the Town will receive pursuant to the recently enacted American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Much of the ARPA funds must be used for targeted purposes, i.e., water and sewer infrastructure and broadband. Some of the money may be able to be used for the unfunded federally mandated I&I (Inflow & Infiltration) work on our sewer system. The funds are available until sometime in 2024. Ms. Checkoway also reported that there may be infrastructure funds for school projects. Both she and Mr. Marshall said that the details of what the ARPA will fund are still being figured out.

Concluding Matters

Resident Thayer posed questions to CBC members and Mr. Marshall about who in Town government should know about the State of New York's list of electric vehicles, some of which the Commonwealth will likely approve for purchase by state and local governments. Jay Marcotte was identified as the right person. Mr. Thayer had questions about whether the boilers at the elementary schools in Town are water or steam. He was referred again to Mr. Marcotte who is working with an energy consultant on the boiler projects for Winn Brook and Burbank. Lastly, Mr. Thayer mentioned the roof assessment done by Russo Barr Associates for the Town some years ago as helpful in assessing the Chenery Roof condition. Chair Mahoney assured him that this assessment is the Town's bible on all things roof related.

Resident Pargoli questioned why the Town is paying to fix the exterior finish problem at the Wellington and the Fire Station roof. Chair Mahoney provided her with a brief history of the insurance settlement with Fire Station contractor and explained that those funds have been used but are not enough to finish the repair work. Mrs. Brusch explained that the Ipe finish on the Wellington was stained originally to be more esthetically pleasing, would fade over time and never be readministered. It is possible that the issue is with the material and not the stain. That is what the Town is trying to determine.

The CBC moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Vose, Secretary