

DATE: January 28, 2022
TIME: 11:28 AM

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING BY AUDIO AND VISUAL REMOTE ACCESS AND BY TELEPHONE
Thursday, January 13, 2022
8:00 AM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

As senior member of the Committee, Mrs. Brusch called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

CBC Members Present by Audio and Video Remote Access: Anne Marie Mahoney, Roy Epstein (SB), Jenny Fallon (WC), Meg Moriarty (SC) and Susan Burgess Cox

Also Present: Glen Clancy, Office of Community Development, Dave Blazon, Director of Facilities, Matthew Haskell, Budget Analyst, and Donna Tuccinardi, Office of Town Accountant

Observers from the Public: Judith Sarno, Larry Link and Phil Thayer

Election of Officers

The meeting began with the solicitation of nominations for Chair and Secretary of the Capital Budget Committee (CBC).

On a motion duly made and seconded, Anne Marie Mahoney was unanimously elected Chair.

On a motion duly made and seconded, Rebecca Vose was unanimously elected Secretary.

Approval of Minutes

Review and approval of minutes was deferred to a future meeting.

Review Capital Requests and Funding for FY2023

Members expressed gratitude to Matthew Haskell for assembling and distributing the Capital Budget Book. Chair Mahoney noted that the CBC will be meeting with representatives from each Department to discuss requests at upcoming meetings.

Facilities Director Overview of Large and Postponed Capital Projects

David Blazon, the current Facilities Director presented a list of requests for school buildings. Several projects involved allocations made in prior fiscal years including: a fire alarm system upgrade at the Butler School; repair of a brick façade, windows and slate roof at the Buter School, and a fire alarm and public address (PA) system upgrade at the Winn Brook School. New FY23 projects included repairs to the Chenery Roof and replacement of a heat exchanger at

the Wellington. The requests for additional funding on projects approved in the past are based on updated specifications for each project. The estimated total for school capital projects presented at the meeting is \$2,988,553.

The facilities director noted the supplemental funds required for the Butler and Winn Brook Fire Alarm & PA system was approximately \$138,553. The Wellington and Chenery projects totaled approximately \$250,000 and had the potential for receiving grant funds. The projects with a cost of approximately \$2,600,000 included work on the façade, windows and roof to the Butler School. All of these projects are in the list of FY23 Capital Budget requests.

Mr. Blazon noted that delays in initiating or completing projects were caused by staffing shortages as well as work related to the pandemic.

It was noted that undertaking work associated with the fire alarm and PA systems simultaneously may have some cost benefits. Based on past discussions related to the possible replacement of the Chenery roof, a recent evaluation was performed. While there is a need for repairs, a replacement is not necessary at this time. Jenny Fallon noted, and Chair Mahoney agreed, that future discussions and planning would be necessary for such a large project.

There was a discussion on the probability of completing the projects listed in the FY23 request. Mr. Blazon noted that the Butler roof needs repair within the next year. It was also noted that the costs of these projects are likely to increase unless they are initiated in the upcoming year and the current fire alarm and PA systems require repairs that incur significant cost due to the age of the systems. Mr. Blazon noted that the department has spent over \$50,000 in repairs to fire alarm systems in the past year.

There was a discussion regarding possible funding sources beyond the discretionary capital budget such as free cash and possible grant funds.

Update on Building Projects

BHS

Mrs. Brusch reported that the project is moving forward on schedule. The 9-12 portion opened this past fall and full building completion is projected for September 2023.

DPW/Police

Chair Mahoney noted that both projects were completed within budget. Each building was successfully opened, and both projects should reach full completion by March or April 2022.

Library

Ms. Fallon reported that the Library Building Project is moving forward with the expectation that a debt exclusion will be placed on the ballot in November 2022.

Rink

Ms. Moriarty reported that a group of town officials and residents are discussing funding and design for a new rink. The plan is to hire an architect and present a design to Town Meeting in the Spring of 2022. An update on the project is on the agenda for the next School Committee meeting.

Other Business

Chair Mahoney opened the meeting to questions from the public. One observer presented several questions regarding net zero energy performance related to the work of the Middle and High School Building Committee, the Library Building Committee and the Rink. It was noted that the questions were beyond the scope of the Capital Budget Committee. However, those working on these projects and present at the CBC meeting acknowledged that all of the projects were striving to achieve net zero energy performance.

Future Meeting Dates

On Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 7:30 PM, there will be a joint meeting with the Select Board, School Committee, Warrant Committee and Capital Budget Committee to discuss the FY23 Budget. The meeting will be held virtually.

The following dates were set for virtual meetings with department heads to review Capital Budget requests:

Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.
Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, February 3, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.
Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.
Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.
Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.
Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.

The CBC moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Burgess-Cox for
Rebecca Vose, Secretary