

**TOWN OF BELMONT
MEETING OF THE
CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING BY AUDIO AND VISUAL REMOTE ACCESS AND BY TELEPHONE
Thursday, March 3, 2022
8:00 AM**

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: March 17, 2022
TIME: 2:32 PM

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.

CBC Members Present by Audio and Video Remote Access: Chair Mahoney, M. Patricia Bruschi, Susan Burgess Cox, Roy Epstein (SB), Jenny Fallon (WC) and Rebecca Vose

Absent: Meg Moriarty (SC)

Also Present: Glenn Clancy, Acting Assistant Town Administrator (TA) and Director of Community Development; Matthew Haskell, Budget Analyst, Office of the TA; Jay Marcotte, Director of DPW; Mike Santoro, Assistant Director of DPW; Donna Tuccinardi, Assistant Town Accountant

Presentation of FY23 DPW Budget Requests

Turn-backs for DPW

Before Mr. Marcotte presented the DPW's requests, Chair Mahoney reviewed the turn-back list for his department. The first of these dates to 2011. Some are modest amounts and one is substantial for just over \$400K allocated in FY22 for fuel tank replacement at the DPW yard. This amount falls woefully shy of the actual project costs for above-ground tanks, and more so for under-ground tanks.

Mr. Clancy reminded the CBC of some residents' objections to above-ground tanks. Underground tank advocates referenced a project in Northborough, which they asserted involved installing under-ground fuel tanks for roughly the same cost as installing above-ground tanks in Belmont. Mr. Clancy's investigation of the Northborough project and communications with that town's Director of DPW does not support this. The Northborough project installed above-ground tanks and was completed in FY15. Inflation since then and supply chain issues today would increase the cost by a factor of 50%. Mr. Clancy anticipates that issues around the tank project will be resolved sometime this spring. Mr. Epstein asked that he obtain hard copies of all the information he has garnered from Northborough.

The CBC discussed the merits of keeping this money in the tank replacement fund. The amount is inadequate to complete the project so Town Meeting will have to appropriate additional funds to make up the balance. Mr. Marcotte reminded the Committee that the State has told the Town that the tanks must be replaced within the next five years. Discussion ensued about parking the

money in the Capital Stabilization Fund and the mechanics of placing and removing it from there. Ms. Tuccinardi explained that \$30K of the \$400K is encumbered for engineering work.

Messrs. Marcotte and Santoro then presented their department's FY23 budget requests as follows:

1.) Sidewalk Repair - \$237,730

This is ongoing work to repair or replace cement concrete sidewalks and granite curbing. The work is guided by a sidewalk inventory conducted a few years ago and is funded by money appropriated in an override vote.

2.) Brush Chipper (#55) - \$57,950

Mr. Marcotte is pulling this request and will defer it to another fiscal year.

3.) Public Shade Tree Inventory - \$55,000

The last inventory was conducted in 1983. An inventory of the Town's public trees will assess the condition of our shade trees. It will also guide decisions of where to plant new/replacement trees and what species are better suited for our environment.

While acknowledging the importance and value of a tree inventory, Chair Mahoney explained that the CBC does not usually fund studies. But members will give this request consideration. Mr. Clancy mentioned that there is a newly created Tree Warden position in the Town Administrator's FY23 Budget. The inventory will inform the scope of work for this position going forward.

4.) Small Front-End Loader (#108) - \$112,450

Current model is almost 20 years old. It is used for a variety of tasks in the Parks Division including field maintenance.

5.) 1 Ton 4WD Pick-up Truck (#110) - \$58,310

This truck, which is used by the Parks Division, is well past its useful life of 8 years. It is not in good enough condition to be passed down to another Town department so will be traded in.

6.) 1 Ton 4WD Pick-up Truck (#117) - \$58,310

It is used by the Cemetery Division and still has some useful life. It will be passed down to another division within the DPW. An electric vehicle was considered but the available models are too small for the jobs performed using this truck.

Before continuing with the remainder of the DPW's requests, Messrs. Marcotte and Clancy updated the CBC on the Trapelo Road Culvert Project, funded by the Sewer Enterprise Fund and Community Development's Sewer & Drain Rehabilitation Fund. The project has been in the queue for a while and involves both Belmont and Waltham. The cost is \$1.5M to be split evenly between the 2 municipalities. The portion to be replaced in Belmont is 100 years old. The new culvert will not increase capacity. According to Mr. Clancy all downstream effects will be felt by Waltham. He also reported that should the 100-year-old culvert collapse, the road would fall.

FY23 Budget Requests from Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds

Messrs. Marcotte and Santoro presented the Enterprise Fund projects to the Committee. They are

- 1.) Front-End Loader (#24) - \$220,625 (Sewer)
The current model will be traded in.
- 2.) 1 Ton 4WD Pick-up Truck (#21) - \$58,310 (Sewer)
The current model will be handed down to another department.
- 3.) Administrative Hybrid Vehicle (#2) - \$56,765 (Sewer)
The new vehicle will be a Ford Explorer because of the amount of equipment it carries and its use in all kinds of weather.
- 4.) Administrative Hybrid Vehicle (#81) - \$31,575 (Water)
The new vehicle will be a Ford Escape. It's not usually driven in adverse weather conditions.
- 5.) Trailer Mounted Vacmachine/Valve Turner - \$86,850 (Water)
This is a new piece of equipment that is used in water main repair and makes that work more environmentally safe.
- 6.) Electronic Sign Board - \$20,850 (Water)
The Water Division will use this to inform residents of hydrant flushing and water main breaks.
- 7.) Tag Along Compressor - \$30,000 (Water)
The current compressor is 30 years old. The new model can be used throughout the DPW, is more effective and sturdy enough to break through ice.
- 8.) Water Main Replacement - \$500,000 (Water)
These funds are supplemented by a MRWA loan in the amount of \$500,000

Presentation of FY23 Community Development (CD) Budget Requests

Mr. Clancy offered descriptions of the projects his department oversees.

- 1.) Sewer and Drain Rehabilitation - \$600,000
This project funds the Annual MS4 DEP storm water permitting program. (This is the fifth and final year of Belmont's EPA order of consent for clean water.) The work involves repairing and replacing mains, testing water quality of the Town's storm water system and correcting deficiencies as necessary. Belmont's sewer and drain system still has and will continue to have hot spots. Constant monitoring and mitigation keep the system

functioning. Identification of illegal connections to storm water systems falls within the scope of the project. The work is funded by Sewer Retained Earnings.

Mr. Clancy explained that phosphorous loading is the next sewer and drain issue the Town will be required to tackle. The Town must detect phosphorous, determine its source and mitigate for clean water purposes. Fertilizer is a significant source. Mr. Epstein suggested that the public needs to be educated about this issue.

Ms. Fallon noted that Belmont is nearing the end of its current 30-year water main replacement program, which is worthy of celebration. But this also means that the Town needs to craft its next 30-year plan for replacing cement lined pipes.

2.) Pavement Management - \$1,857,772

The roads program is funded by two overrides in 2001 and 2015. The roads money exceeds the Town's water main budget. Although it is preferable to do the road work and main replacement at the same time, sometimes CD must choose to repave a road that doesn't need a new water main in order to expend the available roads money. Roads in worse condition that also need water main replacement are deferred. Although CD keeps its focus on neighborhood roads, Mr. Clancy noted that it is time to assess the condition of main roads that were redone in the 1990s, some of which may need to be repaved. When redoing a road CD uses the sidewalk assessment to guide its pavement work. If CD can, it redoes a sidewalk or a portion of it with pavement funds.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Fallon moved: That the minutes of February 12, 2022, as amended be approved.

Ms. Brusch seconded.

Chair Mahoney called the Roll with all members voting in favor.

Next Meetings: Thursday, March 17, at 8:00 a.m. Elizabeth Dionne will present the FY23 CPA projects. David Blazon, Director of Facilities, will return to update the CBC on Facilities requests.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Vose, Secretary