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**MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEE  
Selectmen's Meeting Room  
Thursday, February 27, 2014  
7:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Capital Budget Committee (CBC) was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Chair Anne Marie Mahoney.

Members Present: Anne Marie Mahoney, Chair; Pat Brusch, Warrant Committee; Anne Lougee, School Committee; John Conte and Rebecca Vose, both Moderator Appointees.

Members Absent: Michael Battista, Planning Board and Andres Rojas, Board of Selectmen.

Also present: David Kale, Town Administrator; Gerald Boyle, Director of Facilities; and Floyd Carman, Town Treasurer who joined the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

**Election of Officers**

Mrs. Brusch (CBC senior member) informed the Committee that the first order of business was to elect a Chair and Secretary.

*Ms. Vose moved:* To nominate Mrs. Mahoney as Chair of the CBC.  
The motion passed unanimously.

*Chair Mahoney moved:* To nominate Ms. Vose as Secretary of the CBC.  
The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes**

This was postponed until the CBC meets again.

**Update: Underwood Pool**

Chair Mahoney noted that most members of the CBC have heard the Underwood Pool presentation. The WC will take a vote on this CPA project at its meeting next week. Mr. Kale informed the CBC that the Board of Selectmen recently voted to put the Underwood Pool debt exclusion on the ballot on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The total fee of \$5.2M will be offset by \$2.0M in CPA funding.

**Update: Financial Task Force (FTF)**

Mr. Kale informed the CBC that the School Department presented on four of its eight Modeling

Groups. He said that the various FTF subgroups are meeting and moving forward.

The town is in the process of getting the Incinerator Site appraised. The CBC discussed the next steps for the incinerator site, noting that the post-closure use will be useful information to have going forward.

Chair Mahoney provided an update on the Capital Budget subgroup of the FTF. She noted that DPW Director Castanino attended the meeting and the next DPW site was discussed. She said that it is clear that the DPW needs a new site. Regarding the Police Station, she noted that the feasibility plan cannot be updated until a site is identified. She said that if the Light Department moves when the new substation is built, it may open up a possibility for a DPW site.

The CBC discussed the importance of consolidating space, which would save in certain vehicle costs, e.g., dump trucks. Mrs. Brusch noted that the Police Station is in dire shape.

Chair Mahoney stated that it will be several years before the high school project might become possible. She then noted that several residents have requested that the CPA rescind its vote to NOT bond CPA projects, thus skirting the popular vote process. She explained why this is not a good idea. CPA projects would still need Town Meeting approval. Mr. Conte explained that additional bonding will increase the town's debt. Chair Mahoney observed that some residents do not see CPA funding as taxpayer money, which it clearly is.

Mr. Boyle said that all facility requests of the school (and town) will come under the "Department of Facilities" umbrella. The School Department is only submitting a single capital request separate from the facilities requests (the request concerns IT). However, the School Department is requesting funding (via the Department of Facilities) for various security measures.

### **Initial FY15 Capital Budget Review**

Mr. Kale reviewed the FY15 CBC budget. He began by reviewing last year's expenditures, e.g., fire truck, school van. He noted that ambulance receipts are going into a dedicated fund that will pay for replacement ambulances. A five (5) year bond, approved last year, is being used to fund fire equipment replacement. The BOS has supported the use of free cash to fund \$200K in sidewalks. He said that \$87.5K (one-time revenue from the renegotiation of the trash contract) will be used on a high-power blower to clear sidewalks.

He reported that the net available for the Capital Budget is \$781K, after money designated for roads and sidewalks and debt service is set aside. The CBC then discussed the issue of what happens when there is a balance left over from money set aside from Capital allocations.

Mr. Kale provided an overview of the work done on the Higginbottom pool. Communication regarding managing the pool, going forward, was discussed.

The CBC Budget Book was distributed.

Mr. Kale highlighted some of the requests from the Capital Budget book. He informed the CBC that the Belmont Center reconstruction grant was not approved from the state, but that the water pipes were replaced, in case the MassWorks grant was approved. He said that the Board would like to see this project move forward, if the funds could be identified (\$2.5M) from one-time revenue. Money could be taken from Chapter 90 funds, should that funding source be increased. Mr. Kale would like to see the project proceed in the spring of 2015. The Department of Community Development will re-apply for the grant in the fall.

The CBC discussed the timing of requesting funding from TM. Mrs. Brusch noted that the Center reconstruction is not a pressing issue that is well known within town, since it was believed that the state would provide the funding. In her view residents will require education about the Belmont Center project especially if money to fund it will be taken from the roads allocation.

### **Presentation of CPA projects for Annual TM**

Chair Mahoney invited Mr. Carman to present the CPA projects.

Mr. Carman reviewed the history of the CPA committee. He noted that the committee thoughtfully created a structure for the group's process before it solicited the initial round of applications. This structure has enhanced the committee's efficacy in evaluating proposals. The group weighs the benefit to the whole community of each project. CPA projects must involve open space, recreation, affordable housing or historical renovation. Mr. Carman reviewed what falls under the committee's purview and what does not, especially regarding finances.

### ***CPA Projects***

**JV Field Irrigation Upgrade – \$8,700** – This is a basic update of the facilities already there.

**Electrical Upgrade of Public Housing Units – \$165,000** – This replaces wiring that is over 50 years old and is a fire hazard. This is a phased project and the CPA Committee anticipates five or six more requests for new wiring in the future.

**Daniel Butler School Playground Project (Phase II) - \$66,524** – This helps complete the playground project.

**Winn Brook Field Renovation – \$100,000** – This is for irrigation and new turf.

Chair Mahoney noted that the CPA is actually partnering with private fundraising for the three (3) fields and playground projects. Mr. Carman noted that the field projects will require some maintenance for watering the turf.

**First Time Homebuyer Assistance – \$375,000** – This is three awards of \$125K. It will purchase three affordable housing units for those who meet the requirements and will integrate the affordable units into existing neighborhoods. He said this approach is worth examining. Mrs. Brusch noted that Belmont is low on meeting the state standards for affordable housing.

Mr. Carman offered that this is more affordable than building units, from the ground up.

**Belmont Community Moving Image Archive – \$12,000** – This project preserves historical film. The Belmont Historical Society endorses this project.

**Underwood Pool - \$2,000,000** – This project began with a CPA funded (\$300K) feasibility study. While the CPA could fund half of this project, the other half would need to be funded via a debt exclusion. He said the new pool will serve the entire community. The cost estimates have risen, he said. In Mr. Carman's opinion if the debt exclusion vote fails, the new pool project will need "to be laid to rest." The CPA will not support funding the entire pool from CPA funds. Should the debt exclusion fail, the CPA's \$2M (allocated for the pool) will be put back in the CPA pot.

These CPA projects, Mr. Carman explained, still need to pass muster with the DOR. The vetting of CPA projects by the state was discussed. The timing of the pool construction, should the debt exclusion pass, was also discussed.

The CBC will vote on the CPA projects when it meets next.

#### **Setting of Future Meeting Dates**

After some discussion, it was decided that the CBC will meet next:

Friday, March 14 at 8:00 a.m. (Police, Fire and Library)  
Thursday, March 20 at 5:00 p.m. (DPW and Community Development)  
Friday, April 4 at 8:00 a.m. (Schools and Facilities)  
Thursday, April 10 at 5:00 p.m. (CBC Discussion, straw pole)  
Thursday, May 1 at 5:00 p.m. (CBC vote)

The CBC moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Vose  
Secretary