

MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS WORKING GROUP
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Belmont Town Hall
FINAL MINUTES OF Friday, October 20, 2017

2017 DEC -8 PM 3:10

Members Present:

Pat Bruschi, Mark Paolillo (arrived at 8:53), Floyd Carman, Phyllis Marshall, Anne Marie Mahoney, Roy Epstein, Jenny Fallon

Members Absent:

Others in Attendance:

Jay Marcotte, DPW Director; Budget Analyst Glen Castro; Assistant Police Chief MacIsaac

The meeting was called to order at 8:34 a.m.

Review of October 19, 2017 Public Meeting

Chair Mahoney noted that the meeting went very well last night. About 16 people attended. There were very few questions.

SMAA Report

Chair Mahoney noted that the report looks fine and it contains no surprises.

STM (11/13/17) Planning: Meetings with BoS, WC, and CBC

Chair Mahoney stated that she will have a draft of the MCPWG report next week. The group briefly discussed the selling of the former Light Department building on Concord Ave. Issues relating to decommissioning (as related to the high school field space for the Hittinger substation) were briefly explored.

Financing, Scope, Prioritizing, Sequencing of Projects (as part of the STM report)

Chair Mahoney broached the topic of prioritizing the remaining projects. Should it be based on readiness? cost? need? The group explored issues relating to prioritizing. The group agreed that it should be noted that the BHS rose on the list because of the MSBA approval (and funding help). Need, it was agreed, should be acknowledged, as should cost. The impetus for the short-term fixes (DPW – Police Station) is need.

Issues relating to prioritizing the projects were explored.

Mr. Carman noted that TM members will raise all sorts of notions (e.g., like Mr. Colton did at the Public meeting last night concerning selling the Belmont Light Department) and to be prepared.

Sequencing of Projects

Ms. Ellen Schreiber (WC member, Library Fundraiser) approached the table to discuss the timeline of the various projects. She noted that state and national elections tend to draw people out. Too many town elections can cause campaign and voter fatigue. She laid out various scenarios for the BHS, Library, etc. She spoke to the benefits of combining some of the projects on one ballot. She spoke to the advantages (allows time for fundraising) of putting the Library on the ballot for the Presidential election of 2020.

Ms. Schreiber then discussed the state grant possibility for the Library. This is an unlikely scenario for several reasons (now proposing to build on same site, we backed out of two previous grant rounds, pushes the Library out for several years, costs escalate, etc.). Selectman Paolillo said that it is time to move forward with the Library and the town should not continue to sink more capital money into it.

Issues relating to sequencing and Library fundraising were explored. The need for a potential operating override (April 2020) was brought into the conversation. Mr. Carman added that having multiple projects under construction (Library, BHS) will be stressful and disruptive for the town. There will be ripple effects. Ms. Brusch mentioned that the Chenery will be facing serious over-crowding issues in the very near future. Ms. Marshall spoke to the BHS construction phases and its impact on the timing of the Library project.

Chair Mahoney summarized the debt exclusion timing possibilities: BHS in fall 2018, Library in 2020, new DPW and Police buildings in 2024. No consensus was reached – at this point there are still too many variables. The sequencing of these projects is clearly going to be a fluid process.

Short and Long Term Proposals for DPW and Police Station

Assistant Chief MacIsaac noted that the Town Meeting members who recently toured the Police Station feel a new Station is needed now.

Minutes

Chair Mahoney noted that the following sets of minutes need approval:

September 15, 2017

No action was taken on these minutes.

September 22, 2017

Chair Mahoney moved: To approve the minutes of 9/22/17, as amended.

The motion passed, with one abstention.

September 28, 2017

Chair Mahoney moved: To approve the minutes of 9/28/17, as amended.

The motion passed, with two abstentions.

September 29, 2017

Chair Mahoney moved: To approve the minutes of 9/29/17, as amended.

The motion passed with one abstention.

October 13, 2017

Chair Mahoney moved: To approve the minutes of 10/13/17, as amended.

The motion passed, with one abstention.

Updates

The Community Bike Path was briefly discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Next meeting: Friday, October 27, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 4 of Town Hall

Chair Mahoney will present a draft of the MCPWG report for the Special Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Gibalerio,
Minutes Recorder