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MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEE  
Town Hall Conference Room 1  
Thursday, March 10, 2016  
5:00 PM

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Capital Budget Committee (CBC) was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Chair Anne Marie Mahoney.

Members Present: Chair Mahoney, M. Patricia Brusch, Mark Paolillo (BOS), Jennifer Fallon (WC), Raffi Manjikian (PB), Susan Burgess-Cox (SC), and Rebecca Vose

Also present: David Kale, Town Administrator, and Floyd Carman, Town Treasurer

**Community Preservation Act (CPA) Proposals: Discuss and Vote**

Chair Mahoney began with the CPA applications. Ms. Fallon informed the CBC that the Warrant Committee did not vote on the Tennis Courts, as they wanted to see how the Recreation Commission would vote. However, the WC voted unanimously to support the other five projects. Mr. Carman then reported that the Recreation Commission has since voted on the Tennis Courts with 5 in favor, 2 opposed.

Chair Mahoney invited Mr. Carman to present the first CPA project proposal to the Committee.

**1. Construction of Intergenerational Walking Path at Clay Pit Pond \$228,350**

Mr. Carman stated that this falls under the "open space" provision. This renovation will cover about 60% of the walkway. It will not cover the section near the school. The WC, he said, was enthusiastic about this project.

*Ms. Fallon moved:* Favorable action on the Intergenerational Walking Path.  
The motion passed unanimously.

**2. Preserving Belmont's Original Vital Records \$80,000**  
**3. Digitizing Belmont's Town Meeting (TM) Records \$85,000**

Mr. Carman explained that these two projects will help to preserve the vital records of the town. He explained that this will help residents access records from decades ago. Ms. Fallon added that the records are crumbling and need to be preserved.

*Ms. Brusch moved:* Favorable action on Preserving the Vital Records.  
The motion passed unanimously.

*Ms. Brusch moved:* Favorable action on Digitizing TM Records.  
The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Town Hall Exterior Railings Improvements \$75,000**

Mr. Carman explained that the railings in the front of the Town Hall building (as well as the upside-down cannons) need to be refurbished. This project falls under the historic category. The shrubbery will need to be cleaned up near the rails and the Town received a donation to pay for new plantings.

*Ms. Brusch moved:* Favorable action on the Town Hall railing project.  
The motion passed unanimously.

**5. PQ Park Revitalization Study \$25,000**

Mr. Carman explained that the scope of this application had been to revitalize the entire PQ area, but that the applicants were advised to focus on the playground piece only. This money will cover the planning aspects of improving the playground area. The applicants will likely submit an application next year as a follow up to the study.

*Ms. Vose moved:* Favorable action on PQ Park Revitalization.  
The motion passed unanimously.

**6. Winn Brook Tennis Courts \$325,000**

Mr. Carman noted that the tennis courts are in rough shape. There is a notion that there may be too many tennis courts across town, but with the high school project looming (which will remove the courts there at least temporarily) and modular units being placed on the CMS tennis courts, there will be fewer tennis courts in the near future. Ms. Fallon stated that this money could be reallocated next year, if it doesn't get used, based on the data of tennis court use. Mr. Carman added that the tennis courts at the Winn Brook do get used. Ms. Brusch stated that the data on usage will be very helpful, as the demand for courts seems to have shifted over the years.

The CBC discussed issues relating to the number of courts and the utilization of the courts.

*Mr. Paolillo moved:* Favorable action on the Winn Brook Tennis Courts.  
The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of February 4, 2016 were unanimously approved, as amended.

**Setting of Future Meeting Dates**

Thursday, March 24 at 8:00 am (department head meetings)

Thursday, March 31 at 8:00 am (department head meetings)

Thursday, April 14 at 8:00 am (straw poll)  
Thursday, April 28 at 8:00 am (final votes)

### **Miscellaneous Updates**

#### **Library**

Ms. Fallon reported that the RFQ is moving forward. The Trustees hope is to have an architect on board by June 1st. There will be two forums, one in June to solicit public input and another in September to present the Architect's Study results. The Library Trustees will pass on the state grant round this fall. There are significant needs at the Library (heating system, ADA compliance, etc.) and the elevator will not last 10 years.

#### **Belmont High School**

The building committee will be announced Monday night. The timeline concerning the BHS project was briefly discussed. Mr. Kale addressed some of the moving pieces, including the feasibility study, the funds for which will be appropriated by Town Meeting likely at a Special Town Meeting held within the Annual. Committee members observed that the existing high school was built for 1,400 students maximum, while the new high school enrollment number will need to be adjusted based on current enrollment trends. Aside from the need to accommodate a growing student population a new renovated high school also has to provide space for legally mandated programs, such as special education, that did not exist in the early 1970's.

Mr. Paolillo raised the issue of the placement of the food pantry if more Modular units are added at the high school. The CBC agreed that they will need to be addressed.

#### **Minuteman**

Mr. Paolillo said the working group is meeting to discuss the new building project. The Minuteman school committee is likely to support the new building proposal, therefore Belmont will need to vote on this with 60 days. He explained how the revised agreement impacts the voting on the new debt. It is likely that there will be a referendum vote, since all 16 towns will probably not support the new building proposal.

### **FY17 Capital Budget Requests**

Mr. Kale reviewed some of the major capital projects submitted to the CBC. The Facilities Department has submitted the most capital requests, he said, as is expected. The modular classroom units (\$1.4M) are likely to have a separate funding track. Some smaller items (routine maintenance) have been omitted from the requests. He explained the funding of some fire equipment. Also, the BOS approved the fire alarm system contract and work has begun at BHS. The alarm system bids came in favorably.

Chair Mahoney noted that some phased projects items have been pushed out to future fiscal years. These items will need to be tracked carefully for the CBC's report. Ms. Fallon raised the

issue of furnishing the modular units. The CMS furnishings are in the budget (\$1.4M). However, the other proposed modular units will need furnishing (and a funding source for the furnishing will need to be identified).

Mr. Kale discussed the sidewalk money and noted that those repairs are being coordinated with the pavement management program.

#### **Next Meeting**

Chair Mahoney requested that the Committee members read the Capital Budget requests and send their questions to her by the Monday before department head interviews.

Thursday, March 24 at 8:00 a.m. (DPW, Police, Fire and Town Clerk)

#### **Adjournment**

The CBC moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Vose  
Secretary