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**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
Town Hall Conference Room 4
Thursday, February 26, 2015
5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Capital Budget Committee (CBC) was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by Chair Mahoney.

Members Present: Chair Anne Marie Mahoney, Patricia Brusch, Sami Baghdady (BOS), Jenny Fallon (WC), Michael Battista (PB), Anne Lougée (SC), and Rebecca Vose

David Kale, Town Administrator

Chair Mahoney began by reviewing the evening's agenda and turned to the first item.

Election of Officers

Mrs. Brusch moved: To nominate Anne Marie Mahoney for CBC Chairwoman.
The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Brusch moved: To nominate Becky Vose for CBC Secretary.
The motion passed unanimously.

Overview for FY16 Capital Budget

Mr. Kale began by stating that the capital requests have been collected from all the departments. He will provide a summary of the requests for the Board of Selectmen to review when it meets again on Monday evening (3/2/15). The list of requests is being compiled and prioritized. He suggested that the CBC begin to do "pairings" within the list of requests, e.g., public safety requests, facility requests, library requests, etc. for purposes of scheduling meetings with department heads.

Mr. Kale then discussed the \$1.12M that is currently allocated to the FY16 CBC budget, less about \$200K for fire apparatus, ambulance replacement program, etc. that are part of multi-year funding programs. This leaves about \$835K to meet departmental capital requests.

If the proposed \$4.5M override is approved, it will impact the CBC budget in the following way: A \$500K bond will be issued in FY2016 and then another \$500K will be issued in FY 2017. Additionally, \$300K will be allocated annually to pavement management (roads) and \$200K annually for sidewalks.

Mrs. Brusch and Ms. Vose both raised concern over the CBC policy that limits the amount of

debt carried annually in the Town's Capital Budget. The Override's proposed lending scheme may violate that policy.

Mr. Kale noted that Governor Baker released additional Chapter 90 funding (\$200K) for this fiscal year. On a bright note, the new snow blower (\$87K) helped the town meet its sidewalk bylaw and performed really well given the 95 inches of snow Belmont has received to date this year.

The CBC discussed that, if the override is approved, the funding infusion will impact the way the CBC prioritizes its allocations.

The Financial Task Force (FTF) Capital Sub-Group Report

Chair Mahoney described to committee members how the FTF Capital Sub-Group came together to create its report. The two main considerations concerning the outstanding capital needs are location and funding. The Police station does not have a location and the high school and the library are both dependent on the state grant cycles. A new building for the DPW, given these considerations, should be near the top of the list.

Chair Mahoney reviewed the capital projects that have been addressed since the MEGA group first began meeting in 2000: two fire stations, the Senior Center, the Wellington School, Harris Field, etc. Projects that are currently in process include the Underwood pool, the Light sub-station, Trapelo Road, Belmont Center Reconstruction, etc.

Mrs. Brusch reviewed the state process with regard to the grant cycle for school building projects. The process has changed over the years, depending on who is in charge at the state level. The state, she said, will typically give a grant to one high school per year. Mr. Kale provided a brief Minuteman update and noted that the proposed new Minuteman facility will cost about \$144M.

Chair Mahoney added that increased enrollment in the Belmont schools will mean that these schools will need additional space. Additionally, more work will need to be done at three of the elementary schools. The CBC discussed historical school enrollment numbers and noted that Belmont's enrollment rise was not predictable.

Capital projects (which again require a viable location and funding) that need to be addressed:

1. BHS: location is identified, but the expense is huge, and the MSBA process is hard to predict
2. Incinerator site
3. DPW
4. Library: the timing of the state grant funding is unclear
5. Police Station: location is unclear

Mr. Kale discussed some of the possible post-closure uses for the Incinerator Site: a new police station, athletic fields, solar farm, etc. He added that the Grove Street master plan is moving

forward.

Chair Mahoney invited CBC members to offer feedback to the FTF Capital sub-group report.

Setting of Future Meeting Dates

Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. [This meeting is just for CBC members to review the list of Departmental capital requests.]

The CBC moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Vose
Secretary