

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Belmont Rink and Sports Facility**

Municipal Skating Rink Building Committee

3-22-2023

**1. What has changed since the vote in November?**

*Based on further cost studies, which were underway at the time of the vote, the reuse of existing rink structural members was not economically viable. In addition, without the constraints of the existing structural frame, most of the programmed spaces within the new facility can be under one roof, thus reducing square footage of the facility and cost. The Committee also engaged an Energy Consultant to provide input on solar panel size and cost. These studies maintained the same program requirements, but reduced cost by almost \$3.5M.*

**2. How much will the Rink and Sport Facility project cost?**

*The project cost is \$29.9 million, which was reduced by 10% since November.*

**3. How much will it cost per household?**

*The cost per household is \$170/year for a property with an assessed value of \$1 million.*

**4. Is the project cost offset by fundraising from the community?**

*\$1.3 million in private funds have been raised for the project, which will offset the cost to the taxpayer. Therefore, the net cost of the project, \$28.6 million, was used to calculate the expected bonding and cost per household. The fundraising team also has several corporate donors who are interested in investing in the project once it is approved.*

**5. Will there be solar panels to off-set energy costs? What other energy measures have been included?**

*The proposed rink design is 100% electric with no fossil fuel use. Solar panels have been included in the budget and as currently proposed cover all of the accessible sloped roof area, totaling about 75% of the entire roof. Some of the roof areas need to be utilized for mechanical equipment. The solar array will be approximately 435KW DC in size and will provide over 50% of the energy needs of the facility, reducing the operational energy costs. In addition, a non-ozone depleting refrigerant will be utilized having a low global warming potential (GWP).*

**6. Will the facility locker rooms for High School Athletes?**

*Yes, there will be 4 locker rooms, with equipment lockers, dedicated to High School programs for all 3 sports seasons (Fall, Winter, and Spring) that will have access from both the interior of the facility and the exterior to Harris Field. In addition, there will be 4 dressing rooms, without equipment lockers, to support rink activities, field sports that do not require storage, and visiting teams when playing at Harris Field.*

**7. Will public restrooms be provided for those attending games at Harris Field?**

*Yes, there will be public restrooms for rink use and those attending athletic events at Harris Field. In addition, there will be a concession area within the lobby area and a sheltered outdoor seating area.*

**8. How can the building accommodate so many different user groups?**

*A programming study, with input from the High School Athletic Director and the Recreation Department, explored the seasonal use of the building, the goal of the design was to create the most flexible public, locker and dressing room spaces. The design considers both user groups inside the building and at the adjacent fields during their respective athletic season and through coordinated practice/game*

*times each day. Please reference the programming diagrams in the uploaded project presentations.*

**9. How or who will manage the Facility?**

*This is an issue that the Select Board as the Park Commission and the Town Administrator will evaluate following a positive vote. They are committed to a robust community process to define operations, programming, and management of the facility.*

**10. Will there be ice all year or just for 4 months?**

*The facility will be designed to accommodate 12-month operation, but a final operational decision on when to have ice or remove the ice will be made after a community input process that takes into account the needs of the entire community. We currently envision 8 to 9 months of operation (with ice) each year.*

**11. What other activities or programs might use the rink when there is no ice?**

*When the ice is removed in mid-to late spring, the Recreation Department will schedule activities and programs within the facility based on input from the community. These activities could include youth summer camps, adaptive sports, and adult programs such as tennis, pickleball, volleyball, roller hockey, box lacrosse, dog training, group fitness classes, etc. The open floor space could also be used for community gatherings.*

**12. Will there be a space for skate sharpening and rentals?**

*Currently, space has been allocated for skate rentals, and sharpening could be available.*

**13. What is the operating budget for the new facility?**

*The Building Committee's role is to design and construct the facility. The management and operation will be up to the Town Administrator*

*and the Select Board in conjunction with the Recreation Department. Based on the O&M process, an operating budget can be developed.*

**14. What is the difference between a town-owned, community operated facility and a privately run facility?**

*During the evaluation of a Public/Private Partnership the Select Board chose to move forward with a rink facility owned and operated by the Town instead of pursuing a privately developed facility. Maintaining control of the facility allows the community to continuously have input on the operational and programming decisions and preserve optimal times of use for members of our community.*

**15. Why is a public procurement process required for this facility and how does this affect the overall cost of the project?**

*A public procurement process is required by the State for a publicly funded project to protect the financial interests of the tax payers. The public procurement process includes costs above the material and labor costs such as contingency (funds allocated for unforeseen conditions or expenses), escalation (rising costs in materials during construction), and design fees, that may not be included within the project costs reported by private developments.*

**16. What is the status of the White Field House and adjacent shed?**

*The Town Administrator and DPW are currently evaluating options in conjunction with the School Department. Any construction or demolition of these structures is not part of the Rink and Sports Facility.*

**17. Are there any changes to parking?**

*The project will include very limited changes to the current parking, specifically only the addition of two handicapped spaces and a bus drop-off to allow the safe loading and unloading of students. The new facility benefits from the proximity of parking at the new high school.*