

COMPREHENSIVE CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: 2024-04-12
Time: 07:30 – 09:05 o'clock
Meeting called to order by: Chris Doyle

IN ATTENDANCE

- Chris Doyle (Chair)
- Claus Becker (Scribe)
- Pat Brusch
- Susan Burgess-Cox
- Deepak Garg
- Larry Link
- Aaron Pikcilingis
- Matt Taylor (Selectboard member)
- Jung Yueh

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: April 26, 2024
TIME: 10:32 AM

ABSENT

- Jennifer Hewitt (non-voting member)
- David Blazon (designated by the superintendent)

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

The Committee discussed feasibility of adding money to the Capital Stabilization fund. E.g. \$500k to use for contribution for substantial projects e.g. Chenery.

Currently, there is probably less than \$200k in the capital stabilization fund which is not earmarked. Susan Burgess-Cox informed the committee that the town has ~\$11M in free cash, some of which is spoken for. There may be \$225k in turn-backs from the current financial year.

Committee agreed to try to identify cuts that would allow \$500k to be added to bid stabilization and capital stabilization funds.

Turf \$150k and fire staff vehicles \$85k, could be delayed, for example. That would free up a total of ~\$580k for funds. Gym floor \$50k and video surveillance \$200 considered for reduction. Repointing could perhaps be split over two years.

Chris Doyle informed the Committee that municipal state law has been adjusted recently. If funds are used as intended, simple TMM majority required. If not, 2/3 majority.

Committee reviewed updated requests: CAMA database estimate revised down to \$150k instead of \$250k. Tasers (\$200k) was removed from list as not capital expense.

Committee discussed the rankings of proposed capital projects considering the new information.

The Committee plans to present a thirty-year plan at the upcoming Town Meeting session. Major expenses on the horizon include the Chenery heating projects and roof repair (~\$8M, new public works facility (~\$22M), and incinerator site-capping (~\$5M). There was agreement that the thirty-year plan could be laid out in 30-year buckets.

The committee discussed if the Town should add money to a bid contingency fund. Setting aside money would be aligned with charge to plan for thirty years.

Scheduling: Presentation at the June 3rd town meeting. May 13 report circulation by clerk. Preliminary report to select board April 22nd.

Chris Doyle encouraged committee to review last year's CCBC report.

Near-term, the biggest expense is the Chenery Beyond the boiler replacement, there is replace of roof and roof HVAC units. The Committee supports an expense of \$200k this year for design.

The Committee discussed the best way to replace the Chenery boilers. In support of this, the Committee has a report from a consultancy called Guardian and which looks at some discrete options, gas only, electric boilers only, geothermal heat pumps only. The committee discussed if a hybrid approach would be optimal, e.g. a combination of electric and gas boilers to be able to switch to lowest cost alternative, A decision at autumn TMM may still allow for construction in FY 2026. The Committee has been told that the order of projects (boilers then roof) cannot be changed.

Pat Brusch left at 08:00 o'clock to attend to other town duties.

There were no questions or comments from public.

Meeting was adjourned at ~09:05 o'clock.