

Minutes for June 7, 2024, Comprehensive Capital Budget Committee Meeting

Present

Chris Doyle (Chair), Claus Becker (Clerk), Patricia Brusch, Susan Burgess-Cox (Vice Chair), Deepak Garg, Larry Link, Matthew Taylor, Aaron Pikilingis, Jung Yueh, Dave Blazon (Town Employee), Jennifer Hewitt (Town Employee), Tom Caputo (Member of the Warrant Comm & Rink Building Committee)

Article 3 of June 10, 2024 Special Town Meeting

The Select Board presented an Article to Town Meeting seeking authorization to provide funds to supplement amounts originally appropriated for the Municipal Skating Rink Project. The total appropriation under Article 3 includes \$550,000 from investment income and \$950,000 from the Kendall Fund.

The actual revenue from the investment income was higher than what the town estimated. This revenue is intended to be one-time proceeds to apply toward one-time expenses such as capital projects. The Kendall Fund has a current balance of \$2.1 million. An appropriation of \$950,000 will leave the fund with approximately \$1.2 million. The Kendal fund has been used for other building projects such as the design of the Fire Station, Senior Center and BMHS; the purchase of modular units at Belmont High School; and the design for the renovation of the DPW and police station.

It was noted that the town is expecting to receive additional funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the rink project based on discussions with Senator Brownsberger. The town will know more about the receipt of state funding within the coming months and town officials are confident that state funds will be allocated toward this project.

The Committee discussed the installation of solar panels on the rink. A committee member noted that some citizens voted in favor of funding the project anticipating that it would include the installation of a photovoltaic (PV) system. The building design will allow for the installation of panels in the future if they are not part of this project. Town officials are engaged in discussions with Belmont Light regarding the possibility of a partnership that could involve the installation of solar panels by Belmont Light.

The Committee discussed anticipated fundraising for the rink project as it does not appear to be ongoing. Other building projects such as the Library and Senior Center had ongoing fundraising campaigns for each project. Fundraising for the rink project has remobilized.

Following an extensive discussion, Pat Brusch made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article 3 of the June 10, 2024 special town meeting. The motion was seconded by Deepak Garg. The Committee approved the motion by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed and 2 abstaining.

Minutes

There were no minutes to approve.

Future Meeting dates

June 21, 2024 at 7:30 AM

Public Comment

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

Upon a motion by Pat Bruschi, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 AM.