

**BELMONT WARRANT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**MAY 8, 2019, 7:30PM**  
**CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL, LARGE COMMUNITY ROOM**

2019 MAY 30 AM 11:51

Present: Chair Slap, Members Alcock, Crowley, Dionne, Halston, Helgen, Lubien, McLaughlin, Read, Rickter and Weis.  
School Committee Liaison Crowley.  
Selectman Caputo. Town Administrator Garvin.

Members Absent: Doyle, Fallon, Schreiber

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm by Chair Slap, who reviewed the agenda.

## **I-Approve minutes**

From subcommittees:

*Motion (Helgen): To approve the education subcommittee minutes from April 24, 2019.  
(Motion passed unanimously)*

## **II-Review Capital Budget Committee FY20 Budget Recommendation**

Anne Marie Mahoney (Chair, CBC) joined the meeting, reporting that the total request for discretionary funds was \$3.5m, of which \$1.8m had been approved by the CBC. Facilities alone had submitted a request for \$2.1m, almost half of which was funded.

Available road funds totaled \$2.4m, a combination of override monies (bulk of the total at \$1.7m from 2001/2015 override), assumed Chapter 90 funds, and bonus Chapter 90 funds from last fall. Sidewalk monies totaled ~\$200k from the 2015 override; Dionne suggested to look into a fund for disability access as a potential way to add needed funds towards sidewalks – Garvin would follow up with Town Treasurer Carman.

Mahoney proceed to review the list of funded requests out of the discretionary budget:

- Library: A request for gutter and downspout repairs had been approved last year. However, the repairs last year were performed on the front as opposed to the sides as was intended by the CBC; the sides still required repair to prevent dangerous ice from accumulating on the entryway sidewalks.
- Fire pumper: The budget provided for half the amount of the truck to allow for an order to be placed. Building of the truck would take a year, and next year's Capital Budget would provide for the other half on completion. Helgen raised questions of whether the specifications of the truck were appropriate; possible to see the context of what other towns pay for their trucks?
- Facilities: Mahoney stressed that safety and heat had governed the choices of

funded items.

- Lubien and Weis commented on the energy efficiency of the boilers being replaced at several of the schools. Mahoney noted they were part of a dual-boiler system, so had to work with the other existing boiler. Weis pointed out that a strong justification should be provided for the choice of boilers to Town Meeting, to address any concerns with respect to the Town's clean energy goals.
- Mahoney highlighted 'building envelope study' and 'roof plan development' line items. The previous iterations of these documents, which help inform the replacement/repair schedules of building envelopes and roofs, were outdated. Dionne suggested to look at CPA funds as source of funds for making external repairs to historic buildings, which included some of the schools.
- Helgen asked how the amount for police relocation fit in with the rest of the budgeted amount for the project; Mahoney said it was an initial small amount set aside to help get the relocation off the ground. Helgen suggested it was have been good to keep this amount included in the overall budget to free up money in the Capital Budget for other requests.
- Unfunded requests included: Highway trucks/mowers; windows, painting, and paving at the Beech Street Center; school exterior doors; underground fuel tank at DPW (no indication of failure – new tank has to be above ground – wait until construction is finished).

### III-Approve 2019 WC Report for submission to Town Meeting

- Chair Slap circulated the draft section on Pension/OPEB and requested review of a paragraph that included an assertion of the Warrant Committee.
- Chair Slap clarified with TA Garvin that health insurance costs were assumed to increase 8%; the consultant had recommended 10%. Garvin said the Board decided on 8% and to run down the Health Insurance trust in case of overage.
- Crowley was uncomfortable with wording about providing 'ample' room for Minuteman enrollment. Chair Slap proposed a change to the effect that 'Belmont would carefully monitor enrollment trends'.
- Crowley pointed out that under the 'Debt Service' section it mentioned a reduction in taxes due to refinancing, but not the increase in taxes from approval of the school project. Garvin suggested to more explicitly call out included vs excluded debt.
- Chair Slap would incorporate the remaining edits, including copy edits from various members.

*Motion (Helgen): Approval of the Warrant Committee report as edited by the group.  
(Motion passed unanimously)*

Helgen commended Chair Slap for her efforts taking over from previous chair Epstein and finishing the report. Rickter said the WC Report Working Group would seek to obtain more immediate feedback from Town Meeting members on this year's report.

#### IV-Preview Facilities Department Reserve Fund Transfer Request

Lubien stated the Public Services Subcommittee had met with Facilities Director Dorrance to review the request, and had asked for further details. Two other items were also added to the list for the request: Beech Street Center roof and Town Hall roof (non-slate portion). The Subcommittee would meet with Dorrance in advance of Warrant Committee on May 22<sup>nd</sup>; Chair Slap would circulate the finalized numbers when available, and any questions for Dorrance should be passed onto Lubien in advanced of the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### V-Updates from subcommittees and working groups

None.

#### VI-Updates from BOS and liaisons

Caputo updated from the BOS:

- Joint meeting on May 30 with School Committee to discuss potential for a public-private partnership for the ice rink.
- Pole petition meeting Tuesday May 14 to review two applications to place 5G small-radius antennas on light/utility poles. Board is figuring out the Town's position, navigating recent FCC guidelines.
- IT Advisory Committee will be presenting to the Board soon regarding 21<sup>st</sup> century government initiatives.

Caputo also updated from the Belmont High School Building Committee, which had undertaken a value engineering process to identify ~\$20m in savings. McLaughlin noted no substantial compromises had been made for the project.

Crowley updated from School Committee:

- With the Minuteman membership expiring, there was a sense of urgency regarding rescinding the decision to leave, which would need to happen in the coming year to clear legal/procedural hurdles. Chair Slap noted the WC had previously conducted thorough analysis on the matter.
- Belmont High School becomes a construction site for 4 years as of June 10.

Dionne updated from the Community Preservation Committee:

- Unclear what will happen to the Payson Park Music Bandstand project; the Committee advised the sponsor to hold a public meeting.
- Seeking public input for the process of updating the CPA plan for Belmont.
- Checking with the State re: possibility to use CPA money to acquire easements.

#### VII-Adjournment

*Motion (Member McLaughlin): To adjourn. Motion passed.*

Submitted by  
Christopher S. Henry