

Capital Budget Subcommittee
May 31, 2021
5:00 PM
Remote Meeting Held on “Zoom” Platform

MINUTES

Members Present: Councilors Deborah Pellegri, Matthew Kelly, Robert Dellorco, and Brian Chandler

Town Staff also in attendance: Town Administrator Jamie Hellen, Chrissy Whelton - Assistant to the Town Administrator, Alecia Alleyne - Administrative Assistant. Michael D’Angelo-Facilities Director, Dr. Sara Ahern- Superintendent of Schools, Miriam Goodman- School Business Manager, James McLaughlin- Fire Chief, Thomas Lynch-Police Chief, Brutus Cantoreggi- DPW Director, Tim Rapoza-Director of Technology

Councilor Pellegri called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM

1. Town Administration Free Cash Overview

Mr. Hellen gave an overview of the Capital Plan explaining the history of the Free Cash and an overview of free cash availability noting the total this year was \$2.73 Million much less than previous years. Further he stated that when winter is over we can see what is left in the snow and ice and determine the best use of those funds for a round 2 of capital funding.

2. Department Presentations:

a. School Department, School Facilities and School Technology requests

Mr. Hellen gave an overview of the School Departments requests including special education vans, ECDC playground surface replacement and ADA updates, security access controls at Kennedy Elementary, required Firewall upgrades, and a room divider at Horace Mann Middle School Gymnasium. Mr. Chandler asked how many vans will be retired. Ms. Goodman responded that 2 vans will be retired. She also noted that one will be used as a spare van and one will be auctioned off. Mr. Chandler asked if the Technology Director was here. Mr. Hellen said he was not able to attend. Councillor Chandler made a motion to put the Technology on hold until the Director could be present. Vote was unanimous. Vote 4-0. Councillor Dellorco asked if there was a warranty with the new vans. Ms. Goodman was unsure and said she would get the

information. Councillor Kelly asked how often we switch out the special ed vans. Ms. Goodman did mention that there is a rotation plan and they work with the maintenance department to determine the life expectancy and need for replacement. Councillor Kelly had some concerns and was wondering if a stabilization plan was being looked at. He also asked why the Gymnasium divider could not come out of the regular budget. Mr. Hellen noted that this is a one time cost so it fits into the Capital Budget. Mr. D'Angelo stated that these dividers last for about 30 years. The current one was a mechanical divider that stopped working about 6 or 7 years ago so they are looking at more of a curtain style rather than a mechanical divider. Councillor Pellegri asked if we could approve all but the Firewall upgrade. Mr. Hellen noted that we can move the firewall piece to the next meeting. Councillor Chandler made a motion to Move the Technology requests to the next meeting. Seconded by Councillor Dellorco Vote was unanimous. Vote 4-0. Councillor Kelly made a motion to approve the Special Ed Vans, ECDC Playground resurface, Access Controls, and Gymnasium Room Divider. Seconded by Councillor Dellorco. Vote was unanimous. Vote 4-0

b. Town Facilities

Mr. Hellen gave an overview of the Facilities requests which include the new municipal window which were estimated at \$ 750K-\$800K and they came in at \$389K. Mr. D'Angelo noted that the municipal building was built in the 80s and wasn't properly flashed from the wall down onto the lentil, which allowed water to enter and cause problems. He noted that the window work also includes fixing these issues and preventing leaks. Councillor Dellorco asked how long the windows are estimated to last. Mr. D'Angelo responded that we should get at least 30 years. Councillor Kelly made a motion to recommend the Facilities requests. Seconded by Councillor Dellorco Vote was unanimous. Vote 4-0.

c. Public Safety- Fire Requests

Mr. Hellen gave an overview of the Fire Department requests which includes Fire Protective Clothing, Resume washer, portable radios & microphone, and a self containing breathing apparatus. Councillor Dellorco asked if it was a special washer. Deputy Klich stated that the washer is for washing the SCB cylinders on the air packs themselves. Councillor Chandler asked how many extra radios will you have after this. Deputy Klich said this would give the department 6 extra radios. Councillor Chandler asked about the 2 deputy vehicles that were not

recommended at this time and asked what they are currently driving. Deputy Klich stated that currently they are driving a 2011 Explorers with 70K miles and another deputy is using a 2011 hand-me-down from the police department with over 100K miles. Councillor Chandler asked if the Town has ever heard of the PILOT program and if we have ever asked Dean College to help pay for a vehicle. Mr. Hellen said he would be happy to ask the College if they would be willing to donate. Councillor Kelly made a motion to approve the requests. Seconded by Councillor Dellorco. Vote was unanimous. Vote 4-0.

d. Public Safety - Police Requests

Mr. Hellen gave an overview of the Police Department requests which include 4 Police Cruisers, protective body armor, portable radios, electronic control weapons, and technology software. Councillor Pellegri asked why the technology request is not under the Technology Department. Mr. Hellen stated this is a one time cost for Police. Councillor Dellorco asked what happened to the vehicle being replaced. Chief Lynch said they go to the DPW and are eventually auctioned off and those funds go back into the general fund. Councillor Chandler asked if half the money for the vests gets paid by the state. Chief Lynch said it is a reimbursement program where we pay for the gear upfront and are reimbursed later. Councillor Chandler asked if a portion of the Police Station Study could be funded each year. Mr. Hellen said we have to do the whole thing at once and it is going to be an expensive study. He also mentioned they have already been talking to a few architects to see how much it would cost to renovate the current site. Councillor Kelly asked what type of vehicles we are replacing the 4 cruisers with. Chief Lynch responded that all 4 vehicles will be replaced with SUVs. Councillor Pellegri asked what happens to the portable radios that we don't use any more. Chief Lynch said they give the Schools the older portable radios to be able to communicate with the Police Department and some are used for spares. He also mentioned that they do auction them off also. Councillor Pellegri asked about cameras and if the officers are wearing or using them. Chief Lynch confirmed that the Police are not wearing body cameras and are hesitant to do anything like this until they have more guidance. Councillor Kelly made a motion to approve the requests. Seconded by Councillor Dellorco. Vote was unanimous. Vote 4-0

e. Public Works- DPW, Highway & Grounds, Water, Sewer Requests

Mr. Hellen gave an overview of the DPW Highway and Grounds requests for Design and Reconstruction of Traffic light at Grove St and Washington and replacement of a dump truck with sander. Councillor Dellorco asked if the dump truck comes with the sander. Mr. Cantereggi stated it is included in the price. He also mentioned one item that was not recommended at this time, the T-5 vehicle had to be taken off the road and wouldn't pass inspection so he would like to see the replacement for this vehicle in the 2nd round of capital improvements. Councillor Kelly expressed concerns about the future capital need for DPW vehicles. Mr. Hellen explained that the funds are not there, however they can look into a stabilization fund. Councillor Kelly made a motion to approve the Highway and Grounds requests. Seconded by Councillor Dellorco. Vote was unanimous. Vote 4-0

Mr Hellen gave an overview of the DPW Water Enterprise requests for a cash payment for water main projects to avoid borrowing and save taxpayers some money, replacement of a 4x4 pickup truck, 6 wheel dump truck and plow, 4x4 pickup to split with Sewer, and 4x4 Pickup with plow, Tank design and repair, Scada system upgrades, and meter replacement program. Councillor Dellorco asked if there was work being done on Sherman Street. Mr. Cantereggi confirmed that yes they are working on the water main on Sherman. Mr. Hellen noted that Mr. Cantereggi is hosting a few Neighborhood meetings to let the residents know what they are doing. Councillor Dellorco asked about the unknown circumstances with Garelick Bankruptcy. Mr. Hellen stated that the staff has worked hard and has recouped almost all of the money that was originally owed however we are waiting for interest and penalties. Councillor Kelly made a motion to approve the Water Enterprise requests. Seconded by Councillor Dellorco. Vote was unanimous. Vote 4-0

Mr. Hellen gave an overview of the DPW Sewer Enterprise requests for Salin Circle Sewer Station Construction, Beaver Street Interceptor Rehab and Engineering Design, 4x4 pick up to split with Water, and another 4x4 pick up truck with a plow. Councillor Kelly asked if the Salin Circle Sewer Station had begun. M. Cantereggi explained that they have been doing some work to make the place safer for their guys to go in and do the work. Mr. Martin said the project should be done by the end of the year. Councillor Dellorco mentioned there were quite a few items that were not recommended at this time. Councillor Kelly made a motion to approve the

Sewer Enterprise requests. Seconded by Councilor Dellorco. Vote was Unanimous. Vote 4-0

Mr. Hellen gave an overview of additional projects and issues. He also commended the town staff for going out and getting the best deals for equipment and services to save the town money.

Councillor Pellegrini made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilor Dellorco. Vote was unanimous. Vote 4-0

Meeting Adjourned at 6:18 PM