

Capital Outlay Committee Meeting
Finance Commission Room
May 24, 2023, 6:30pm
MINUTES OF MEETING

COC Members Present: Myev Bodenhofer, Robert Donnelly, Chair, Eric Fleming, Gerry Miller, Ernie Paciorkowski, Sarah Sullivan

Fin Comm Members Present: Alan Slater, Chair, Myev Bodenhofer, Vice Chair, Anne Haley, Sarah Sullivan

Ex-Officio Members Present: Clayton Cheever, Alex Haggerty

Absent: Kevin Connolly, Meg LaMay, Anne Marie Mazzola, Tony Mazzucco, Tim McDonough **Stormwater**

Management Committee: Bob Donnelly, Jerry Hopcroft, Chair, Michael Rosen, Alan Slater **Guests present:** Molly Ahearn, John Cianciarulo, Joseph Kidd, Michael Rosen, Mark Ryan, Karen Sheridan, Jeff Sullivan (Remote),

Ad Hoc Stormwater Utility Meeting Committee called to order by Chair Hopcroft.

Capital Outlay Committee Meeting called to order by Chair Donnelly.

Finance Commission meeting called to order by Chair Slater

Ad Hoc Stormwater Utility Study Committee

Chair Donnelly introduced the Chair of the Ad Hoc Stormwater Utility Committee, Mr. Hopcroft. Mr. Hopcroft explained that this evening's presentation to both the Finance Commission and the Capital Outlay Committee is the beginning of the Stormwater Utility Committee's work to educate the public on the significant work that must be done to deal with the stormwater runoff in Norwood. The work will have a significant impact on town finances and the projects will come before both committees in the future. The Committee wants to create familiarity with the issues currently occurring and what can be done in the future to resolve issues.

The Ad Hoc Stormwater Utility Committee was created a year ago through the Board of Selectmen. The Committee has been meeting with consultants to discuss possible resolutions. The Committee's objective is to prepare a recommendation for how to deal with flooding issues that have occurred in Town. Mr. Hopcroft provided a brief overview of the projects that would need to be completed over the next 10 years at the cost of \$40,452,000 (in early 2022 dollars). This does not include the cost of maintaining or the cost of bonding. There are three options being considered for financing these projects:

1. Finance through normal capital outlay process and operating budget.
2. Finance through a debt exclusion override, assessment of a separate stormwater management fee. The committee plans to continue working to determine the appropriate funding source. The committee will hold the first of many public forums on June 7th.

Follow up questions to the presentation followed:

- Ms. Bodenhofer asked if there will be a way to estimate the impact of various projects so that the Capital Outlay Committee and Finance Commission could assess the value of the investment? How is value measured and how can we communicate that value to the public? Mr. Ryan said that they are working on ways to try and explain to the public. The systems are designed for a 10-year storm which is equal to 4.7 inches in 24 hours, in June of 2020 we got 5 inches in 90 minutes. They have examples in the study to show to the public.
- Mr. Paciorkowski asked, what is the progress of Meadowbrook and what is the priority? Mr. Ryan reminded all attendees that the Meadowbrook project came out of a 2003 study. Most of the

recommendations in that study were not completed because of cost. Right now, streamlining of the Meadowbrook channel is in the design process and may go out to bid late this year for spring start. It is being funded through ARPA funds. The Meadowbrook basin will be requested in next Capital Outlay cycle. • Ms. Haley asked how are you going to contact neighbors affected by these projects? Mr. Hopcroft indicated neighbors will be contacted by direct mail. Ms. Haley followed up with, how is this going to impact use of Murphy Field? None of these projects will disrupt the use of the field, it is outside the field and play area perimeter.

- Mr. Fleming asked if these projects would result in a change to the FEMA flood map? Reducing the need for flood insurance for some residents? Mr. Hopcroft does not think it will change the map at all, but it may help some who have recent events on their properties.
- Mr. Slater asked, what happens if Hennesey field is not done, will whole house of cards fall? Mr. Hopcroft responded, pretty much.
- Mr. Miller reminded everyone that most of Hennesey area is ledge, how will that be dealt with? Mr. Hopcroft said that will be dealt with during the design process.
- Ms. Haley wanted to know where the basin would be on Hennesey field property? Mr. Hopcroft said that would be decided during the design process.
- Mr. Fleming asked if the basin area is used for recreation, how will you predict when it is going to flood for safety purposes? Mr. Hopcroft replied that what type of recreation will it be used for is not yet determined and it will flood when it rains. Mr. Ryan followed up the comment by explaining it will be shown at meeting that the basin area is a passive area, not an area where people will play. Mr. Fleming felt it would be important to point out during meetings that it is a passive area
- Ms. Bodenhofer asked, what percentage of Norwood is currently at risk for flooding and how much of that would be addressed by this? And if money was not an issue, are there other areas that should be addressed? Mr. Hopcroft said while there will be some areas that still flood it will be relatively small and not significant flooding. Mr. Rosen added that the Meadowbrook area is the most densely populated area and addresses the majority areas of concern over 1000 acres.
- Mr. Miller asked if it would be worthwhile to consider Froggy's as a basin? Mr. Rosen responded they did not look outside the area and that Froggy's is very shallow.
- Mr. Donnelly asked Mr. Haggerty if there is anything he would to say anything about the cost of borrowing? Mr. Haggerty explained that he had calculated the 30-year projection and the total would be \$81 million total cost.

At 7:25 pm Mr. Donnelly motioned for the Stormwater Committee to adjourn, Mr. Slater seconded, and the committee voted unanimously to adjourn.

Ms. Haley motioned for the Finance Commission to adjourn, Ms. Sullivan seconded, and the committee voted unanimously to adjourn.

Updates to Capital Outlay Committee Projects

Mr. Rosen has only a couple of updates on projects approved last year and plans to continue updating moving forward.

- New Council on Aging Vehicle delivered April 26th now in service.
- Generator at Senior Center now in place from Fiscal Year 22.

- The Public Safety Radio will be funded with grant procured by Fire Chief.
- Fire Protective Clothing and 2 Fire Ambulances ordered expected before year end. •
- Tasers in Rotation project is complete.
- Hawes Pool Design – working to conform to placeholder of 4,000,000.

Ms. Bodenhofer asked for clarification on delivery of Ambulances in December? When approved it was expected 18 month plus delivery. Mr. Rosen was going to clarify but believed lead time included adaptation to ambulance. Ms. Sullivan asked for status of updates for previous FY projects. Mr. Rosen responded that he would need to check with Town Manager about delivering those updates. He will follow up at next meeting.

Future Projects

Mr. Ryan – Director of Public Works and Engineering

Provided a packet of items that will be on FY24 budget.

- Mechanics have identified Truck #10 and Truck #39 as high priority need for FY24 replacing previously forecasted needs. Backhoe and Truck #25 are not in as bad shape. Ms. Haley asked if the trucks stored inside should we see some payoff with new facility? Mr. Ryan responded he expects to see payoff, but these are 2007 vehicles, garage facilities built in 2015. All vehicles are now stored inside.
- Street Sweeper was postponed from last year, need to get this year.
- Ellis Pond Dam Improvements
- Bridge Rehabilitation on Washington St.
- Hawes preliminary projection, updated figure expected this summer.
- Water Main Cleaning and Lining – MWRA zero interest loan 22,000 feet per year being relined, making great progress.
- MWRA meter connection chamber construction FY26-FY27 – we received design funds last year, have not started working with Mass DOT this project will be done at the same time as the widening of the intersection of Route 1 and Everett and Route 1 and University Ave.
- Annual pavement management – 4th year of 5th year doing 10 miles this year.
- Water Tank, Repair and Replace – built in 1939 and 1958, repairing and repainting is very expensive. Need to discuss rehab cost versus replacing one or both. Mr. Donnelly asked if we need to replace both or could we replace both with one? The oldest tank is reaching the end of its life. Mr. Paciorkowski asked Mr. Ryan to clarify the purpose of their tanks. Mr. Ryan explains that the tanks control the water pressure throughout the town, the larger tank is not turning water over enough. Mr. Fleming added that the tanks regulate the pressure over time.
- Upgrade of traffic signals for Washington Street and Nahatan Street. Mr. Fleming confirmed with Mr. Ryan that they will be using arms not wires and Mr. Ryan stated yes.
- Hennessey field basin – propose to use ARPA funds. Mr. Paciorkowski asked if the Prospect Street project would happen before or after Everett Street? Mr. Ryan stated before, Prospect St. will be bid this summer, it is a stated funded project.

Capital Improvement Policy For Review

Ms. Bodenhofer requested to add “substantially changed” to changes. She stated that assessment of value is part

of the role of the COC, any project that has substantially changed in cost should be reviewed. Mr. Fleming reiterated that any time new, altered capital goes before town meeting it should be based on recommendation of the COC. Mr. Donnelly accepted changes and will bring a policy draft back at next meeting.

Approval of April 27, 2023 meeting minutes:

Motion to approve by Mr. Paciorkowski and seconded by Mr. Fleming and approved unanimously.

Future Work

Mr. Donnelly and Mr. Rosen will talk about the process for delivering a look at FY24. During June and July the staff gets together on weekly basis to discuss plan and they need two months to do that. Mr. Donnelly suggested the June meeting could discuss the management of the timeline. Mr. Miller asked with the warrant will close. Mr. Rosen stated 1 month before the town meeting date. The Committee discussed the value of meeting before FY24 plan finalized by staff. The June meeting will be planning for the FY24 plan and review the bylaw changes.

Mr. Fleming motioned to adjourn, Ms. Bodenhofer seconded and the committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah E. Sullivan