

Capital Outlay Committee Meeting

Finance Commission Room

August 15, 2022, 6:30pm

MINUTES OF MEETING

Members present: Myev Bodenhofer, Kevin Connolly, Vice Chair, Bob Donnelly, Alex Haggerty, Meg LaMay, Anne Marie Mazzola, Tim McDonough, Tom McQuaid, Chair, Gerry Miller, Ernie Paciorkowski and Sarah Sullivan.

Members absent: Clayton Cheever and Tony Mazzucco

Guests present: Jason Adams, Kevin Broderick, Travis Farley, Kevin Grasso, Anne Haley, A Chief David Hayes, Andrew Jurewich, Matt MacDonald, Norwood Record, Kerri McCarthy, Mark Ryan, Deputy Chief Chris Padden, Paul Riccardi, and Michael Rosen, Assistant Town Manager.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by the Chair, Mr. McQuaid.

The minutes for the July 25, 2022, were reviewed and one correction was noted, Mr. Donnelly is replacing Mr. Lane on the Committee. Mr. Connolly moved to accept minutes as amended, Mr. Miller seconded. The minutes were approved as amended with Ms. Bodenhofer, Mr. Donnelly, Ms. Mazzola, and Mr. Paciorkowski abstaining.

Mr. McQuaid introduced Mr. Rosen, who proceeded to deliver a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed capital projects for FY23 (see attached). Following the presentation, Mr. McQuaid asked the Department Heads to speak to the projects presented and field questions from members of the Committee.

DPW Director and Town Engineer Ryan reviewed DPW projects, including the annual water lining, street paving, school and municipal parking lots, design for the bridge over Hawes Brook at Washington Street and repair or replacement of water tanks near Norwood High School. Mr. Ryan confirmed that town is continuing to move forward with the plan to pave more streets than funded through Chapter 70 to continue to work toward catching up on the road program. The department continues to reline about 4 miles of water pipes each year. When asked about grant funding, Mr. Ryan stated he will pursue grants for any projects that are eligible, and that Norwood has been quite successful in securing grants for projects when they are applicable..

Superintendent of Recreation Farley reviewed the Hawes playground plan. Mr. Miller asked if footprint would be larger or the same. Mr. Farley indicated it would be the same size. Ms. Sullivan asked if he was concerned about installing a playground before a possible renovation of Hawes pool, given the proximity of the two locations. Mr. Farley was not concerned. Mr. McDonough questioned if there had been any consideration to doing some work at Fr. Macs and not just concentrating on the Hawes area. Mr. Farley made it clear there are plans to work on Fr. Macs in the future but believed completing the Hawes area was the best plan to move forward with at this time. Mr. Paciorkowski asked if the pool study committee had come to a consensus that both pools are needed, and Mr. Farley indicated that has not been decided yet.

Ms. Bodenhofer asked if there had been any consideration to the number of projects scheduled to be conducted in one area at the same time. Mr. Ryan was not concerned about the bridge project affecting the Hawes pool, playground, or middle school project. Ms. Bodenhofer also inquired as to the estimated cost of the repair/replace of the water tanks. Mr. Ryan explained this is an extensive project whether repair or replace involving emptying the tanks, repairing pipes, possibly removing the tanks, and permitting with numerous government agencies, DPA, EPA as well as FAA. Ms. Bodenhofer then asked Mr. Farley if there were any statistics on the usage of the Hawes Playground. While there are

not specific statistics on the use of the playground, Mr. Farley reminded the committee that it is used extensively by the summer camp and added as the new playground would be ADA compliant, it would be used more as there are not many playgrounds in the area meeting ADDA requirements and the Challenger Camp is at the middle school.

Mr. McDonough raised a question about how the new public service radios requested are impacted by the new regional dispatch. Chief Hayes explained to the Committee that this is not impacted by the new regional dispatch. This project is for the radio system within the town that allows first responders to communicate amongst themselves. Deputy Chief Padden added that there are certain locations within town that can be problematic for communication. They have worked with the system, fixing it as needed, but the time has come to replace it. Both Chiefs indicated that it is likely the price will decrease as they expect to get financial assistance from some corporate partners in town.

Chief Hayes explained that they are ordering two ambulances at this time due to the three-year delivery window. It is better to commit to two ambulances now, as the prices are increasing, and the timelines are extending as time goes on. Ms. Mazzola asked if we are decommissioning any of the ambulances with the purchase of new ambulances. Chief Hayes does expect to decommission the oldest but will continue to run it as long as it is safe. Mr. Donnelly inquired as to the whether technology has advanced to the point that there is a market for electronic vehicles. Chief Hayes said while Los Angeles has an electric fire truck, they are not having good luck with it.

The fire department has applied for a \$350,000 federal grant for protective clothing, but are still waiting to hear the results.

Senior Center Director McCarthy explained that the request for a second van is driven by need. The center cannot handle the requests for transportation to medical appointments they receive. The new van will not require additional personnel, it can be covered by existing.

Town Facilities Director Riccardi reminded the Committee that the parking lots at the Willett and Oldham Schools have not been touched in 50 years. Ms. Bodenhofer asked if there was any need for reconfiguration. Mr. Riccardi said there is no need to do so at the elementary lots.

Mr. Connolly wondered when the work at the high school gymnasium floor will be done, as the building is in use all year long. Mr. Riccardi assured the Committee he will work with the Athletic Director to identify a time that works for all parties involved.

Mr. McDonough questioned if the vans being purchased for special education transportation are stripped down versions and if so, is the figure accurate. Ms. Mazzola answered that yes the vans will be stripped down versions and additional configuration is needed. Ms. Mazzola will be getting more information for the next meeting about what will be purchased, vans or minivans and if the figure is accurate.

Mr. McQuaid then began a discussion about a timeline for the process leading up to town meeting. Mr. Rosen stated that Fall Town Meeting is set for November 14, 2022, and that ideally the Capital Outlay Committee would approve projects by September 14th, two months prior to the meeting. Mr. McDonough thought that an early October approval of the projects is more realistic based on what has been done in the past.

The committee then discussed several items that need to be addressed before the committee can approve the five-year capital plan.

- Funding sources need to be provided and discussed at the August 25, 2022 meeting.

- Review out years of the plan as spending seems high.
- Review details on FY23 design requests that are slated for construction in 2024.
- Identify the process of approval prior to Town Meeting, where does the plan go after the Capital Outlay Committee approves the plan, to the Finance Commission and the Selectmen? This will help the Committee back into a date that the COC approval is needed.

Ms. LaMay followed up on outstanding item from last meeting. FY22 project bids that have exceeded the costs approved by Town Meeting will be coming back to Town Meeting in separate articles for additional funding.

Mr. Connolly motioned to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Donnelly seconded and the committee voted unanimously adjourn at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah E. Sullivan

Clerk, Capital Outlay Committee