DEPT./BOARD: Capital Budget Committee

DATE: May 14, 2018

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

PLACE: High School cafeteria

AGENDA

1. Review of Capital Budget Requests recommendations for FY 2019
Chairman Zabolotny called the May 14, 2018 Capital Budget Meeting to order at 7:00p.m. in the cafeteria at the Burlington High School.

Members Present: Ernest Zabolotny, Pat Moreno, Gary Kasky, Gary Mercier, and Adam Senesi, Myrna Saltsman, and Steve Stamm.

Discussion of and recommendation votes for Capital budget requests of TM May 14, 2018
This meeting was held to review and confirm the recommendation votes of all committee members for the capital spending items of the May 14, 2018 town meeting Warrant articles.

Article proposed by TM member Shari Ellis to complete the sidewalk section between the new firehouse and Ferguson Supply. Vote: 7 – 0 in favor. The sidewalk should be completed as a safety priority as well as to make it functionally useful.

Recreation Department

Simonds Park tennis and skate park repaving. Vote 7-0 to support
Outdoor fitness equipment at Wildwood. Vote 7-0 to support
TRW fitness court CBC is in agreement with the Rec. Dept. that this project should be supported in the event that they are successful in obtaining private sponsorship for the equipment.
Replace dump truck Vote 7-0 to support

Building Inspector
Vote 7-0 to support The initial request was for 4 vehicles and was adjusted by Administration to one which was postponed from last year.

Police Department

Complete Taser purchase Vote to support 7-0
Renovate Firing range Vote to support 7-0
The committee is in agreement with the decision to postpone the start of work authorized last year and to perform the work as a single project rather than two separate elements so as to avoid duplication of effort as possible overall cost increases.

Fire Department
Command car replacement   Vote to support 7-0
AIS startup costs          Vote to support 7-0
Replace Pierce Quantum engine 4.  Vote to support 6-1

The dissenting vote was of the opinion that an automatic five year replacement schedule does not take into account the continuing trend that motorized equipment continues to experience improved durability and service longevity. In addition, there is a potential for reducing wear and tear on this equipment by improved matching of response to emergency need. While it is generally prudent to be well prepared when responding to emergency events it may be appropriate to better manage the level of over response to protect both equipment and responders from unnecessary levels of use.

School Department

Technology Projector installation   Vote to support 4-2   SLS- abstain
Dissenting opinions were based on previous years’ expenditures for this type of equipment and doubts about the effectiveness of such equipment in support of educational goals.

Pine Glen playground resurfacing   Vote to support 5-2
Dissenting opinions were based on the belief that as a community we pay more attention to recreation than we perhaps ought to at the expense of attention to education.

Walk in freezer   Vote to support 6-1

Roof top Penthouse repair at high school. Vote to support 7-0

Gym divider wall Vote to support 3-4   The objection in this case is not to the need but the funding source. Since this is primarily an element of the sports program, the question is why funds from the revolving account related to sports programs are not used to cover this expense?

Front parking spaces.  Vote to support  7-0   It is expected that these new parking spaces will include provision for additional handicap accessible positions

Francis Wyman bathrooms   Vote to support  7-0

Francis Wyman fire alarm system   Vote to support  7-0

Francis Wyman air conditioning installation   Vote to support 7-0

Public Works

Road and parking paving       Vote to support 7-0
Traffic light repair ( Bedford and Middlesex Trpk ext.   Vote to support 6-1
Dissenting opinion – questions the need based on personal observations
Mill Pond sludge removal system. Vote to support 7-0 -yes Necessary to enhance reliability of water delivery.

MWRA connection. Vote to support 7-0 This is a necessary near term action to assure adequate water supply and in the long term offers a measure of supply redundancy that we currently do not have.

Sewer enterprise Vote to support 7-0

Culvert /stream cleaning Vote to support 6-1 The vote is to support the work, however, the committee supports the opinion of member Stamm that this is an annual operational expense and should be accounted for in the operating budget and not as a Capital expense warrant request.

Vehicle replacement. All five replacement vehicle requests were supported by 7-0 vote

Water division compressor. Vote to support 7-0

DPW/REC Maintenance facility. Vote 0-7 (Alter implementation plan)

The committee supports the overall plan and need for this facility and looks forward to the improvements that will result at each of the sites involved. In the course of our discussions with the Departments and Administration we suggested that:

- Justify the requests at Town Meeting by referencing the response time for fixing sewer issues when the trucks do not need to thawed during winter failures.
- Suggested taking the buildings completely down at Clark and Reid rather than renovating
- Show the public the current state of these facilities
- Establish a building committee for project oversight such as the one which has been very useful for the Terrace Hall fire station project. Assurances were made that such a committee will be empaneled.
- Provide a basis for the cost estimates that includes a material and labor breakdown for each major project task, operation and maintenance costs for the facility, projected pay down schedule( annual cost to taxpayers over 20 years)
- It was observed that the cost of refurbishing buildings in phase 1 seemed to be similar to the cost of new buildings in phase 2 which appears to be rather odd.
- Preliminary design work upon which the estimates are based.
- Information on cost of similar facilities in Mass.
- Potential need for extensive environmental remediation at each site

Although we support the goals of the project and the general project execution plan, the cost information made available to date, in our judgement, is not adequate to support a positive funding recommendation at this time.