DEPT./BOARD: Capital Budget Committee

DATE: May 20, 2019

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

PLACE: High School Cafeteria

AGENDA

1. Review of DPW Mall Road street lighting project and recommendation vote.
Ernest Zabolotny called the July 10, 2019 Capital Budget Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Burlington High School Cafeteria

Members Present:
Ernest Zabolotny, Myrna Saltman, Pat Moreno, Gary Mercier, Gary Kasky,
Absent: Adam Senesi, Salvana Shakaib
Others: John Sanchez, Tom Hayes

This meeting was called because the project in question, Mall Road lighting, was added to the Warrant after the Capital budget review meeting with DPW to discuss all of DPW capital requests and too late to schedule another meeting prior to Town Meeting budget voting. Therefore, the Capital Budget Committee did not review the item and had no recommendation vote for Town Meeting. When the item came up for discussion at TM, some members thought it to be prudent to have a Capital Budget review and recommendation vote in hand before the full TM vote.

Tom Hayes provided detailed cost estimates for the project and answered questions relative to the differential costs of “ornamental” versus standard street lighting poles and luminaires, need for rewiring some failed existing lights, and potential schedule advantages because of current and planned construction activities along Mall Road. In answers to the question of possible private sector cost sharing, Mr. Sanchez discussed efforts to secure support from Mall road property owners for the project and the judgement of the Administration that that potential source of cost sharing was fully exhausted because of the contributions already made for the new ornamental poles that have already been installed.

Because some of the underground wiring was already compromised and about half of the replacement lights had been installed, the Capital Budget committee members present agreed that the project should be approved as proposed by a 5-0 vote. The cost differential for the “ornamental” poles was rationalized as an acceptable aesthetic improvement cost given that the overall street lighting energy savings achieved by switching to LED lights is substantially greater than that additional cost.

Submitted by E. Zabolotny