

Capital Budget Subcommittee

March 3, 2022

5:30 PM

355 E. Central Street, 3rd Floor Training Room

MINUTES

Members Present: Councilors Deborah Pellegri, Robert Dellorco, Brian Chandler, Ted Cormier-Leger

Town Staff in attendance: Jamie Hellen - Town Administrator, Alecia Alleyne - Assistant to the Town Administrator, Sara Ahern - Superintendent of Schools, Miriam Goodman - School Business Administrator, Tina Rogers - Director of Curriculum, Paula Marano - Director of Student Services, Kerri Bertone - Treasurer/Collector, Chris Sandini - Finance Director/Comptroller, Mike D'Angelo - Facilities Director, James Klich - Deputy Fire Chief, Thomas Lynch - Police Chief, Doug Martin - Water & Sewer Superintendent, Carlos Rebelo - Highway & Grounds Superintendent

Councilor Pellegri called the meeting to order at 5:37 PM

Town Administrator Hellen opened the meeting by outlining the School Department's request, highlighting the technology needs, food service equipment, and special education van. He also explained that the Horace Mann drainage repair costs will also be requested but we will not be using free cash, instead the Capital Budget Subcommittee will be reviewing and accepting a proposed borrowing resolution at the meeting.

Facilities Director, Mike D'Angelo, explained that there have been consistent flooding issues at the Horace Mann School and the facilities staff have been using large water pumps and staying overnight to monitor the flooding situation during heavy rain storms. The Town's hired engineer (Ruso Barr & Associates) came up with a solution to the drainage issues, the Town bid this project on two separate occasions, first round lowest bid came in at \$390k and the second round low bid was \$355k, we originally only budgeted 100k for this project but it is more complex than initially anticipated. The second bid we received was for second shift pricing so there would be little to no disruption to the school day.

The Superintendent of School outlined their FY22 Capital requests. For the school department's math and social studies curriculum they are looking for \$380k to replace math materials at the elementary level, the social studies instruction materials at Franklin High School are about 12 years old and are antiquated & out of date, the \$125k request is an estimate. This request also falls under the DEI initiative to have more representative history teachings and the school department is still waiting on a final quote. The requested food service equipment is to replace a walk-in refrigerator, student services is requesting an 8 passenger van because there is an increase in the number of students needing specialized vehicles in the schools and the current vans are aging.

The Capital Budget Subcommittee voted unanimously to recommend the full 701k to the Town Council. And voted to recommend the 400k to borrow for the Horace Mann drainage project. **Approved 4-0**

Town Administrator Hellen outlined the public works requests for street acceptances (to refill the account to continue work on street acceptances), veterans memorial restoration (Doughboy and WWI memorial repairs), downtown community improvements (fund a variety of beautification efforts), and various vehicles and equipment (John Deere Loader, Ford F250 Pick-up truck & plow, Ford PU 4x2 F250, and a sidewalk plow).

The Capital Budget Subcommittee unanimously voted to recommend 540k for the public works department requests. **Approved 4-0**

Town Administrator Hellen transitioned the discussion to the water and sewer enterprise funds. As proposed, the water enterprise fund will maintain the \$1 million in retained earnings for emergency policies per town policy, water main replacement projects \$1.662 million to pay cash for FY21 water main projects rather than borrowing and paying interest, vehicles & equipment \$85k, fisher street WTP upgrade feasibility study \$60k, hillside tank design \$290k, SCADA system upgrades phase II \$200k, meter replacements \$50k. Requests for the sewer enterprise fund for FY22 include 1. The sewer pump station improvement costs estimated at \$300k and 2. The phase 6 sewer rehabilitation construction part 1 estimated at \$700k.

The Capital Budget Subcommittee voted to recommend \$2,347,000 for water enterprise fund requests and \$1,000,000 for the sewer enterprise fund requests. These requests were approved unanimously. **Approved 4-0**

The Capital Budget subcommittee voted to recommend resolutions; 22-21 Capital FY22, 22-22 Free Cash to Stabilization Account Transfers, and 22-23 Horace Mann Drainage Borrowing. **Unanimously Approved 4-0**

Councilor Pellegrini made a MOTION to ADJOURN the meeting, SECONDED by Councilor Dellorco. Vote was unanimous. **Vote 4-0**

Meeting Adjourned at 6:52 PM