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Town of Swampscott
Capital Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes
Joint Meeting with Finance Committee
Monday, May 15th, 2023 - 6:00 PM
In-person meeting

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Eric Hartmann (Chair), Naomi Dreeben, Joan Hilario, Suraj Krishnamurthi, Cinder McNerney, Adrian Rodriguez, Erik Schneider, Sunit Shah

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Matthew Kirschner (Vice-chair).

CIC MEMBERS PRESENT

Ryan Hale (Chair), David Broadski, Rich Raymond, Kelly Begin

CIC MEMBERS ABSENT

Jay Sullivan

OTHER TOWN STAFF

Peter Spellios, Selectboard member, Katie Phelan, Selectboard member, Amy Sarro, Director of Admin. & Finance; Patrick Luddy, Town Treasurer/Collector; Trang Vu, Assistant Town Accountant

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM

Public comment

None.

Discuss FY2024 Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Hartmann mentioned the Speed Hump project was added to the Capital list proposed for FY2024 Town Meeting as last-minute request from the Town Administrator and the Selectboard.

Naomi Dreeben commented that years ago, they thought about these bumps, but one of the issues was that it makes it very hard to plow in wintertime.

Amy Sarro commented that the intention this time is to have the speed humps instead of bumps. They are large enough and go with such a lower gradient that they can still plow over it without issues.

Ryan Hale said we need to change the process and practice so we can have thorough research before voting on the project. He believes we should follow the timeline of the budget season to avoid the frustration of last-minute additions.

Eric Hartmann asked if there is a way the approved \$1,000,000 for Town-wide traffic improvements can be used as a source of funding for this speed humps proposal. Amy Sarro said it is set for areas around the new school as proposed.

Erik Schneider asked how many speeds hump we are going to do and how much each. Amy Sarro responded that it is 20 in total and each costs around \$15,000 but since the DPW staff can install, we can get them for less.

Naomi Dreeben commented that she does not feel comfortable voting on this project today.
Ryan Hale seconded that.

Peter Spellios commented that after a meeting with the Police Chief and his leadership, they decided to put this request because speed enforcement is a major consideration in town.

Sunit Shah commented that traffic safety is his concern in the town and from his own experience and he believes the only solution is the speed hump and it might be a good investment.

Rich Raymond commented that they are arguing with additional enforcement or the mechanisms to reduce speed, but it was coming at the last minute, and it is a lacking leading up to a point where they are being asked to make a decision.

Mr. Spellios commented that he believes the Select Board is going to make a motion to amend the capital article if CIC and Finance Committee don't recommend it tonight. they are going to make a motion to recommend because they think it is that important and. He appreciates the idea of purity of process, but things happen like this at the last minute.

Cinder McNerney commented that these last-minute projects have been added to the request a few times now and we should not keep this practice.

Director of DPW Gino Cresta joined the discussion with 2 committees by phone. Mr. Cresta responded to Ryan Hale's question about the material of the humps that he is going to try the rubber one out before deciding on the official material to purchase. He believed this is something that DPW can live with and maintain the road and handle installation and removal for snow season. He said DPW team will be able to gather enough data over the summer if we wanted to comeback at Fall Town Meeting for large request to purchase enough material for the whole 20 proposed sites.

David Broadski commented that even if we slowly plow over these humps, it must be some damages and need annual maintenance. Gino Cresta confirmed that issue.

CIC voted in favor of removing the "Hybrid" from the "Hybrid pick-up truck" project by **ROLL CALL**.

The Finance Committee voted in favor of removing the "Hybrid" from the "Hybrid pick-up truck" project by **ROLL CALL**.

Erik Schneider seconded Sunit Shah’s comment about the speed hump that even though he does not like the process, he agrees we need to improve traffic safety and should not wait until the Fall Town Meeting.

CIC made the motion to approve adding \$200,000 to the *Town-wide Traffic improvements* project.
Finance Committee voted in favor of adding \$200,000 to the *Town-wide Traffic improvements* project.

Town Hall Renovation

Ryan Hale mentioned that this project was voted on before by CIC with the assumption that the amount \$50,000 is for the whole project but not just the study and design.

Joan Hilario asked the reasons for not using the space in the library as before. Amy Sarro commented that it is more that we are going to add time to town hall staff to have to pack up out of the building, go over to the library, go up to the third floor, have their meetings all the meetings will be twice as long depending on how short the meeting is. Town hall should be the center of government when we have guests over and a nice meeting space is vital.

Cinder McNerney commented that there was not enough information and there is no plan to pay for the construction. We should do it all (study, design, and construction) at the same time.


Eric Hartmann commented that the Finance Committee went over the capital budget when it was presented to them, took into account the entirety of the capital needs of the town and other things such as the land acquisitions, school, and everything else. We were looking at things that we could find that were nice to have or essential needs. Even if we didn't disagree with the concept of having a town hall function room, we tried to find ways to shave off some dollars.

Erik Schneider asked if \$50,000 is an estimate or a quote. Amy Sarro commented that this is just an estimate based off other projects of the same size and extent.

CIC voted in favor of removing the *Town Hall Renovation* from FY2024 Capital projects list by **ROLL CALL**.

CIC adjourned the meeting at 6:47PM

True Attest,


Patrick Luddy

Treasurer/Collector

Approved by vote of the Capital Improvements Committee 9/12/2023