



Received by Town Clerk's Office
9/12/2023 1:45pm

Town of Swampscott
Capital Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday April 18th, 2023, 7:00PM

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Ryan Hale, Kelley Begin, Richard Raymond, Jay Sullivan

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

David Broadsky

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT

Gino Cresta, Asst. Town Administrator of Operations and DPW Director; Max Kasper, Facilities Director; Patrick Luddy, Treasurer/Collector

Meeting called to order 7:00 PM

Town-Wide Traffic Improvements - DPW

GC described appx. \$150,000 of work that he would like to get done at various intersections in town.

MK discussed on a high-level the various improvements to pedestrian safety contemplated around the site of the new elementary school.

MK commented that this funding would all be expended prior to the opening of the new elementary school in September 2024.

MK also commented that he is working with the Director of Community and Economic Development to obtain grant funding to supplement the capital request and address all of the projects that should be done. The capital request alone likely does not address the full list of improvements to be made.

MK has also been working with GC to find opportunities to do some of this work in-house to realize some savings vs contracting out work, wherever possible.

RH commented that the title of the proposed project does not seem to describe is accurately. There was discussed about amending the name of the project.

On **MOTION** (RH) and **SECONDED** (RR) it was voted by **ROLL CALL** to amend the project title of "Town-Wide Traffic Improvements" to "Pedestrian Safety Traffic Improvements", add \$150,000 of additional funding recommended for FY2025, and recommend favorable action on this project to town meeting. **ROLL CALL:** RH (Yes), KB (Yes), RR (Yes), JS (Yes)

MS Media Center Upgrades – Facilities

MK summarized that the request for next fiscal year covers replacement of the existing dated carpet in the Middle School media center. This was originally going to be part of a larger renovation/rework of the space, but has been separated out instead to prioritize this one component of the space that is in need of attention. The intent is to lay new carpet on the 1st floor and a vinyl floor on the upper level.

JS asked if the flooring would be ripped up as part of the larger middle school renovation that is contemplated years out. MK responded that this would not necessarily be the case because the objective of that project will not be a full-gut renovation but rather a targeted renovation, so there will be control over which components of the building are replaced. MK expects any investment made in the media center over the next few years to survive a future renovation of the MS.

On **MOTION** (RH) and **SECONDED** (RR) it was voted by **ROLL CALL** to recommend favorable action to town meeting on this project. **ROLL CALL:** RH (Yes), KB (Yes), RR (Yes), JS (Yes)

Lift Station Upgrades – DPW

GC discussed upgrades needed to control panels at North Windsor, South Windsor, and Pine Hill lift stations. Existing controls are outdated and in excess of 20 years old. They only provide generic alarm information, so the responding O&M contractor does not know what to prepare for when an alarm occurs.

Upgrading the panels will provide unique alarms for different mechanical errors, allowing the O&M contractor to respond more effectively. GC highlighted potential for cost savings on the O&M with these upgraded alarms.

GC has cost estimates of approximately \$65,000 for each lift station. Total request is rounded and allows a buffer for inflation since the quotes were obtained.

JS asked for potential risks if project was deferred or benefits from addressing all three panels at once. GC responded pricing may be better if three sets of controls were purchased at once vs spread apart. O&M is able to respond to existing alarms so there is no increased risk of failure, however response time is longer and racks up additional operating expense.

RH asked if rooftop solar to lift stations was an option; the stations use a lot of electricity. GC said no because the lift stations aren't actual buildings, they are vaults underground and have no rooftop for solar.

GC commented that main pumping station would be suitable candidate for rooftop solar. Electric can cost \$7-8,000 or more per month when there is a lot of rain, and the offset would be welcome.

MK commented that he would review the condition of the roof and due a little due diligence and with a little time he could come up with a recommendation in conjunction with Gino for next year.

On **MOTION** (RH) and **SECONDED** (KB) it was voted by **ROLL CALL** to recommend favorable action to town meeting on this project. **ROLL CALL:** RH (Yes), KB (Yes), RR (Yes), JS (Yes)

Firearms Upgrades – Police

There was discussion regarding the necessity of the arms to be upgraded/replaced, specifically the AR component of the upgrade.

RH was not supportive of the purchase of lethal weapons.

RR commented that the AR is the only firearm the PD has that is effective in situations where body armor is at play; supports the upgrades as requested to ensure the department can respond adequately to situations such as this in the unlikely event they occurred.

JS held a similar position to RR.

KB commented that she would reluctantly support the upgrade in the absence of tangible alternatives to consider.

On **MOTION** (JS) and **SECONDED** (RR) it was voted by **ROLL CALL** to recommend favorable action on this project to town meeting. **ROLL CALL:** RH (No), KB (Yes), RR (Yes), JS (Yes).

There was general discussion on the content of the committee's letter which accompanies the committee's recommendations to town meeting on the CIP. Final edits to the language were agreed upon.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM

True Attest,



Patrick Luddy

Treasurer/Collector

Meeting minutes approved by vote of the CIC on 9/12/2023