



Town of Swampscott

Finance Committee/Capital Improvement Committee Joint Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 27, 2020

Meeting Conducted via remote participation on the zoom.us application

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this joint meeting of the **Finance Committee** and the **Capital Improvement Committee** was conducted via remote participation utilizing the zoom.us application. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting was made available on the meeting posting. No in-person attendance of members of the public was permitted, and every effort was made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Finance Committee

Tim Dorsey (Chair), Mary Ellen Fletcher (Vice Chair), Gail Rosenberg, Cinder McNerney, Eric Hartmann, Joan Hilario, Jill Sullivan, James Goldman, Matthew Kirschner

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Capital Improvement Committee

Richard Raymond (Chair), Jay Sullivan, Kristin Saccoccio, David Brodsky

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kelley Begin

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Michael McClung (Town Moderator); Peter Spellios (Chair, Select Board); Gargi Cooper (Chair, School Committee); Carin Marshall (School Committee); Sean Fitzgerald (Town Administrator); Ronald Mendes (Assistant Town Administrator/Treasurer); Pamela Angelakis (Superintendent of Schools); Martha Sybert (School Business Administrator); Allie Fiske (Asst to the Town Administrator)

Chairman Tim Dorsey called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 6:35pm. Chairman Richard Raymond called the Capital Improvement Committee to order at 6:38pm.

After some initial remarks, Ms. Sybert proceeded to review the School Department's proposed capital plan. The Clarke School boiler replacement project and emergency generator projects are in the beginning stages such that if these projects were to be approved, the Town will be prepared to move on the project expeditiously.

There are no proposed investments in the Stanley and Hadley Schools pending the MSBA Hadley School replacement project.

There was then some discussion on the status of the application to the accelerated repair program for the Middle School Roof Replacement Project. This project came out of the Building Study that was completed by Habeeb Architects over the winter. Essentially, we have not yet heard an answer on that application. Ms. Sybert has sent an email to the Town's representative at the MSBA seeking further information.

There was then some discussion on the Middle Schools Fire Alarm Update Project. This project also was identified in the Habeeb Report as a critical need for the Middle School as the current Fire Alarm system is not compliant with the current fire code.

There are some fan boxes at the High School that need to be replaced. The committees were reminded that the High School is now 13 years old and these fan boxes located on the roof are aging and need replacement.

There is also a proposal to replace windows at the Field House.

There was then a further discussion on the topic of including technology in the capital plan. The proposed upgrades to the Fiber Network are needed to meet the needs of further technology. The School Dept. has sought bids and the project cost is now \$60,000 (rather than \$100,000 as initially estimated) and the project qualifies for e-rate funding, which means that the Town's net cost will be approximately \$25,000.

There was then some discussion on whether to include the purchase of chrome books and the Mac Lab hardware in the capital plan (as done in past years) or whether this should be included in the operating budget (as had been the plan for this year). At this time, these items are no longer part of the capital request. Ms. Fletcher, supported by Ms. Sullivan, suggested that there should be ongoing dialogue about delaying until next year the transition of these items from capital to operating budget as needed to support the Schools in the current unanticipated circumstances.

Mr. Spellios then offered some comments congratulating the School Department and the School Committee on its leadership in responding to the emergency that the Town is going through at this time.

There was also a question on the feasibility of municipal broadband. Mr. Spellios indicated that there is some in the commonwealth, but it is typically in municipalities that have a local light plant.

On **MOTION** (Mr. Sullivan) **SECONDED** (Mr. Brodsky) it was **VOTED** (by roll call vote, Sullivan Yes, Saccoccio Yes, Brodsky Yes, Raymond Yes) to adjourn the Capital Improvement Committee at 7:34pm. The Capital Improvement Committee members then left the meeting, and the Finance Committee continued its meeting solely as a Finance Committee meeting.

Mr. Dorsey then continued the Finance Committee meeting with a discussion from last Thursday's meeting on creating a working group to work with the Town Administration to work more closely on issues including revenue, and how changes in the state budget will affect the town's FY2021 budget.

On **MOTION** (Ms. Sullivan), and **SECOND** (Ms. Fletcher) to approve establishment of an informal working group to serve as a liaison to the Town Administration on issues including revenue shortfalls and assisting the Town Administration with budget planning, and report back to the full Finance Committee. **VOTED** by Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0.

On **MOTION** (Ms. Sullivan), and **SECOND** (Ms. Hilario), Mr. Dorsey is authorized to appoint from among Finance Committee members a working group to the working group that was just created. **VOTED** by Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0.

There was then some discussion about COVID-19 testing in the community and Mr. Spellios and Mr. Fitzgerald provided some answers to questions.

On **MOTION** (Ms. Fletcher) to adjourn, **SECONDED** (Ms. Rosenberg) it was **VOTED** by roll call vote: 9-0-0, to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm

True Attest,

Timothy Dorsey, Chair

Minutes APPROVED by vote of the Finance Committee 05/26/2020