



**Town of Swampscott**  
**Capital Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes**  
Tuesday March 1st, 2022 - 7:00 PM  
Virtual Meeting

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Richard Raymond (Chair), David Brodsky, Ryan Hale, Jeremiah Sullivan, Kelley Begin

**ABSENT**

David Brodsky, Kelley Begin

**OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT**

MaryEllen Fletcher, Finance Committee Liaison to CIC; Gino Cresta, Asst. Town Administrator/Director of Public Works; Patrick Luddy, Treasurer/Collector

7:05 Meeting called to order

**Discuss FY2023-FY2027 Capital Plan – Public Works**

**Removal of Cemetery Surplus Fill**

\$500,000 request for FY2023 (Water & Sewer Borrowing) – Mr. Cresta received an estimate from one contractor to remove appx. 50% of surplus fill from water, sewer, and drain operations. Clearing this fill frees up space for DPW storage in the rear of the Cemetery. Equipment could be stored in the back of the cemetery once cameras are installed to deter vandalism. Long-term the cleared space will be developed into additional grave sites. Cemetery averages appx. 100 burials per year and sells appx. 40 lots per year.

**Seawall Repairs**

\$710,000 request for FY2023 (General Fund Borrowing) – Mr. Cresta discussed the work that was completed on the King's beach seawall this past year.

**Street Sweeper**

\$250,000 request for FY2023 (Water Borrowing) – A quote received last year to replace the existing sweeper (Elgin - 1995) as \$239,000; Mr. Cresta is expecting the price to be 5% higher than it was last year. The DPW mechanic does not recommend doing a joint-purchase with a neighboring community because the machines are very temperamental. Mr. Cresta is going to obtain a quote for a contractor to perform the sweeping to determine if that is a better option. The Sweeper is in service for 6-8 weeks a year, and as-needed in special circumstances such as seawall overflow.

### **Street Paving**

\$550,000 request for FY2023 ( \$300,000 funded by DOT/Chpt 90; \$250,000 funded via general fund borrowing) – Cost of liquid asphalt is expected to nearly double vs last year which will diminish the amount of work that can be done. Mr. Cresta uses a third-party vendor to evaluate the condition of all streets and prioritize paving based on need. Ryan Hale suggested that town reach out to state delegation regarding Chapter 90 allocation; Mr. Cresta indicated that the Chapter 90 funding is calculated using an arbitrary formula and does not track the cost of paving projects.

### **Sewer Rehab**

\$248,000 request for FY2023 (Sewer Borrowing) – Work is required for compliance with the EPA consent decree that the town is under. The cost is based on estimates from the Town’s contracted sewer engineer that has been plotting the Stacy’s Brook work. This work represents rehabilitation of areas beyond Stacy’s Brook.

### **Calgon Station Demolition**

\$185,000 request for FY2023 (Water Borrowing) – Building is no longer in service and controls for water tower are relocatable. Demolition of the building would free up the lot for potential new use, although the use is unknown at this point. There may be an operating budget benefit to removing the building via an adjustment to property insurance.

### **Water Main Replacement**

\$250,000 request for FY2023 (Water Borrowing – Interest-Free MWRA Loan) –

MaryEllen Fletcher inquired about the condition of the Sewer Force Main that has been discussed in town as a potential use for ARPA funding that the town has received from, specifically whether additional supplemental funding will be necessary via the capital plan. Mr. Cresta stated that the total cost of rehabilitating the 24” Main (2.5mi) would be about \$50,000,000. Our Main is appx. 5 years younger than Nahant’s, which has had 3 major failures

### **Water Meter Replacement**

\$2,500,000 request for FY2024 – (Water/Sewer Borrowing) – Meters were last replaced in 2005 and meter loss is estimated at 5-7%. The cost of the project is not firm and will need to be updated when the project is more near-term.

### **Lift Station Upgrades**

\$100,000 Request for FY2023 (Sewer Borrowing) - 7 Lift stations in-town that lift raw sewage to the main. Antiquated controls – prior O&M did not maintain the equipment. \$250,000 was secured in FY22 by Town Administrator to upgrade some controls and machinery at several of the plants. New O&M prepared capital improvement recommendations for all of the lift stations. Green communities grant funding has been pursued.

Ryan Hale asked if there were any energy efficiency improvements that could be achieved with these improvements because lift stations are some of the largest consumers of energy out of the town’s assets. Mr. Cresta replied that there are some options in terms of replacement equipment sizing, for example.

## **New and Old Business**

### **Future Capital Projects not represented on draft plan**

#### **Turf Field**

Mr. Cresta was asked to provide an update on the turf field, which has an expected useful life of 10 years. Mr. Cresta believes we should expect to get at least 15 years out of the current turf field based on its current condition and use level. A cover is being requested by facilities for the turf field to activate the space for more events; it is not clear whether the purchase and implementation of a cover would increase the useful life of the turf field.

#### **Shade Trees**

Ryan Hale asked for clarification on the funding that is available for shade trees/tree task force. Mr. Cresta clarified that ample funding was available to clear the backlog of shade tree requests. The cost of a standard shade tree, not including labor for planting, is appx. \$350.

8:03 Meeting Adjourned

The next meeting of the CIC will be held on 3/8/22 at 7pm.

True Attest,

Patrick Luddy  
Treasurer/Collector

*Minutes APPROVED by vote of the Capital Improvements Committee 3/15/2022*