

Capital Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

The Capital Budget Committee held a meeting at 7:00pm on Tuesday, August 23, 2022 over Zoom.

The following members were present:

Edward C. Forsberg (Chair)	Justin Haner
Cheryl Caron (Vice Chair)	Leah McGuill
Noreen Gordon (Clerk)	David Thornton
Josette Burke	

No members were absent

Also in attendance were Assistant Town Administrator Patrick Shield, Fire Chief Timothy Bailey, Deputy Fire Chief Paul Barry, Police Chief Richard Kelleher, and Deputy Police Chief Rob Kilroy.

The meeting was called to order by Ed Forsberg at 7:00 PM

Committee Reorganization

MOTION by Josette Burke to appoint Ed Forsberg as Chair of the Capital Budget Committee. Seconded by Cheryl Caron. The motion passed (6-0-1) (Ed Forsberg abstained).

MOTION by Josette Burke to appoint Cheryl Caron as Vice Chair of the Capital Budget Committee. Seconded by Ed Forsberg. The motion passed (6-0-1) (Cheryl Caron abstained).

MOTION by Ed Forsberg to appoint Noreen Gordon as Secretary of the Capital Budget Committee. Seconded by Josette Burke. The motion passed (6-0-1) (Noreen Gordon abstained).

Chair Forsberg welcomed Leah McGuill back to another three-year term, as well as new member David Thornton.

Capital Budget Overview

Assistant Town Administrator Patrick Shield gave an overview of the Fall Town Meeting schedule and the Capital Budget Committee's role in that process. Over the course of four meetings, the Committee will hear budget requests for capital projects from various municipal departments, and in the last meeting the group will vote on recommendations for allocations of money for the 2022 Fall Town Meeting this October.

Public Safety Requests

Fire Department: Fire Chief Bailey presented the department's two requests. First is **\$140,000** to purchase twenty SCBA bottles and air packs, which are breathing apparatus systems with approximately 15-year lifespans. This is an ongoing project, as the station has about eighty other apparatuses that will need to be replaced at staggered intervals over the next several years. The second request is for **\$60,000** to replace the Fire Prevention Officer's 2013 Command Car, which has been experiencing major gas leakage issues.

Police Department: Deputy Police Chief Kilroy presented the department's capital budget requests. First is **\$48,000** to purchase a new unmarked police cruiser of unspecified make and model. This will bring the total number of unmarked police vehicles for the department to four. The second request is **\$121,200** to purchase a five-year contract for fifty Tasers to completely replace the existing set of aging equipment. These weapons will be more advanced and technologically up-to-date, potentially saving countless lives. The third request is **\$25,000** to purchase several portable radios and assorted equipment. Radios are \$4100 each, so the plan is to buy as many as possible and spend the remaining funds on additional battery units. The fourth request is **\$12,000** for maintenance and replacement of the department's IT system, which is a separate system from the town's IT department. The fifth request is **\$8,000** to replace 5 AEDs (Automatic External Defibrillators), which are emergency tools used to restart the human heart. The sixth request is **\$14,000** to buy Simunition Training equipment, which officers use to conduct Use of Force training exercises. This equipment would include modified firearms that mimic real gunfire for use in simulated scenarios. The final requests are for **\$58,000** to trade in the department's oldest marked cruiser and **\$40,000** to trade in the oldest unmarked cruiser.

Minutes

MOTION by Ed Forsberg to approve the March 22, 2022 meeting minutes. Seconded by Josette Burke. The motion passed (5-0-2) (Justin Haner and David Thornton abstained).

Review Capital Budget Schedule

Patrick Shield presented the Capital Budget Committee's schedule for the next few meetings. The Committee will hear General Government Requests on 8/24, School Department and Building Maintenance Requests on 8/30, and DPW requests on 8/31, followed by a final vote on recommendations for Town Meeting.

Adjournment

MOTION by Josette Burke to adjourn. Seconded by Cheryl Caron. The motion passed (7-0-0).

The Capital Budget Committee adjourned at 8:15pm.