

Capital Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

The Capital Budget Committee held a meeting at 6:00pm on Tuesday, August 30, 2022 over Zoom.

The following members were present:

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

No members were absent

Also in attendance were Patrick Shield, Don Anderson, Bridget Gough, Mike Friscia, and Nancy Gallivan.

The meeting was called to order by Ed Forsberg at 6:00 PM.

Building Maintenance Requests

Building Maintenance: Building Maintenance Superintendent Don Anderson presented the department's two capital budget requests. First is **\$125,000** to pay for a Masonry Project at Blackburn Hall. This project will replace the current roof with a metal roof and remove the existing chimneys. The second request is for **\$55,000** to remove the oil tank located at the Walpole High School and safely dispose of the excess oil.

School Department Requests

School Department: School Superintendent Bridget Gough, School Business Administrator Mike Friscia, and School Committee Vice Chair Nancy Gallivan were present to discuss the School Department's Capital Budget requests. First is **\$880,000** over three years to fund a new three-year technology plan, which would pay for Chromebooks for students all 13 grades, replacing devices every four years. The Town Administrator is recommending paying for one year of the three-year plan this fiscal year, which amounts to **\$300,000**.

The second request is for **\$3,000,000** to pay for Walpole High School Design Services. The Town is working with Compass Project Management and Tappé Architects to plan renovations for the high school that will facilitate a better learning environment for students. This would include the renovation and modernization of many learning spaces, especially areas relating to STEM, athletics, and music/performing arts. This item is not recommended by the Town Administrator.

The third request is for **\$1,000,000** to modernize the high schools' Heating, Ventilation, & Air Conditioning (HVAC) System. The School Department is hoping to move away from fossil fuel and move

towards renewable sources of electricity. This item is not recommended by the Town Administrator because the Town hopes to get funding from the Green Communities Grant Program to fund this expense.

The fourth request is for **\$410,000** to fund the Elm Street Traffic Study, which would determine the best way to regulate the flow of traffic near the Elm Street Elementary School. The current setup is a major safety concern, and a proposed traffic circle may improve the situation. The Town Administrator is not recommending this budget item and the Town is looking at other potential funding sources for this project.

The next request is for **\$400,000** to renovate the four elementary schools' STEM labs and purchase more modern flexible furniture that can easily be moved around to fit the needs of the lesson. The Town Administrator is recommending **\$300,000** for this project, and the School Department says they can make that number work.

The School Department's next capital request is for **\$100,000** to purchase new advanced hands-on equipment for the high school's STEM department, including CRISPR gene mapping software, thermal cameras, and 3-D printers.

The final request is for **\$3,000,000** to modernize the three elementary schools' HVAC System. Currently, only certain rooms in the elementary schools have HVAC set up, which potentially poses serious health risks to students. This would expand the system, as well as switch to eco-friendly energy sources.

Adjournment

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

The Capital Budget Committee adjourned at 8:15pm.