

Capital Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

The Capital Budget Committee held a meeting at 6:00pm on Wednesday, August 31, 2022 in the Finance Committee Meeting Room.

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 Lawrence Pittman, Jim Johnson, Patrick Shield, Rick Mattson, Carl Balduf, Justin Monta, Scott Gustafson, John Hasenjaeger, Landis Hershey, Richard Kelleher, Timothy Bailey, Bridget Gough, Mike Friscia, Nancy Gallivan, Brendan Croak, and Don Anderson.

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

Department of Public Works Requests

Town Engineering: Town Engineer Carl Balduf presented the department's requests. First is \$140,000 for the design and implementation of a downtown traffic study. This would hopefully make the flow of traffic more efficient and safe with more technologically-advanced detection traffic signals and better street signage. The second request is for \$60,000 to replace the culvert on Washington Street near the Water Department and DPW yard.

Parks, Cemeteries & Forestry Division: DPW Director Rick Mattson and Superintendent of Parks, Cemeteries, and Forestry Justin Monta presented the department's requests.

Parks: The first Parks request is for \$125,000 for the Synthetic Turf Field Replacement Fund. There are currently three turf fields in town, with expected lifespans of 12-15 years. The fields are new, but the purpose of this fund is to raise money for when the fields eventually need replacement. The second Parks request is for \$20,000 to fund a tree replanting program for trees that needed to be removed or were lost due to weather or other damage. The owner of the property will be able to choose from five different types of trees. The third Parks request is for \$190,000 to completely replace the track at Turco Field. It was originally installed over a decade ago and the top rubber layer is starting to deteriorate. The fourth and final Parks request is for \$30,000 to implement a passive restoration program, which would upgrade outdoor features like traffic islands and grassy common areas.

Cemeteries: The First Cemetery Department request is for \$20,000 to repair various stone walls and headstones at the Maple Grove Cemetery on Kendall Street and Terrace Hill Cemetery on Washington Street. The second Cemetery Department request is for \$22,000 to purchase two new stand-on lawn-mowers to use for grass maintenance in all the town's cemeteries. The third request is for \$10,000 to pay for seal coating to repair the cracks in the Maple Grove and Terrace Cemeteries' pavement.

Highway Division & Roadway Improvements: DPW Director Rick Mattson presented the department's requests. First is \$95,000 to purchase a new one-ton dump truck with a plow. This would be smaller than the department's other dump trucks, and therefore more practical for smaller jobs. The second request is \$290,000 for a new John Deere front-end loader, bringing the total number of front-end loaders owned by the Town to four. The third request is for \$24,000 for a Salt Brine Maker, which would produce a chemical compound to pre-treat roads before snowstorms. The final request is for \$92,000 for a portable screen plan that would separate out bigger rocks and debris from gravel so it can be recycled for other purposes.

Vehicle Maintenance Division: DPW Director Rick Mattson presented the department's requests. The first request is for \$72,000 for a three-quarter ton F-250 pickup truck. The second request is for \$47,000 to replace the Engineering Department's 2010 F-150 pickup truck. The third request is for \$71,000 to replace the Highway Foreman's 2012 F-150 pickup truck with a plow. The fourth request is for \$320,000 to replace the Highway Department's 2008 Sterling 10-Wheel Dump Truck with a sander. The fifth request is for \$75,000 to replace the Park's Department's one-ton six-wheel dump truck. The final request is for \$10,000 to purchase a new battery-operated pallet lift to help transport supplies between floors in the new Vehicle Maintenance garage.

Street & Drainage Improvements: The DPW is requesting \$600,000 from Free Cash for various roadway, parking lot, and sidewalk improvements across Walpole. Rick Mattson stated that \$300,000 of that money will be used on just sidewalks alone. Josette Burke and Ed Forsberg stated that sidewalks in town are in disrepair or entirely nonexistent and it creates a safety hazard when pedestrians walk on the street. The DPW is also requesting \$68,000 for pavement repainting and \$65,000 for hot fiber crack sealing.

Sewer & Water Departments: Sewer & Water Superintendent Scott Gustafson presented the department's three Articles.

Article 9: Water Department Retained Earnings. The first request is for \$475,000 to clean the raw water transmission pipeline in the Town's water treatment plants, which will increase the carrying capacity of the pipe and reduce energy costs. The second request is \$375,000 to pay for a Supplemental Water Source Investigation, which will look into alternative water supply sources. The third request is for \$180,000 for the Willis Lagoon Design Permit, which will find a location to store the debris that is removed from the plant during the water filtration process. The fourth request is for \$100,000 to pay for the Water Department's share of the purchase of a replacement for the 2009 CASE Backhoe they share

with the Sewer Department. The existing backhoe will be handed down to the Highway Department. The final request is for **\$350,000** to repair and maintain several wells throughout Walpole. In total, the Town Administrator is recommending **\$1,480,000** from Water Retained Earnings for Article 9.

Article 10: Sewer Department Retained Earnings. The first request is for **\$50,000** for the Sewer Department's share of the jointly-owned 2009 CASE Backhoe replacement. The rest of the Sewer Department's requests were not recommended by the Town Administrator, leaving the total for Article 10 at **\$50,000** from Sewer Retained Earnings.

Article 11: Water Department Borrowing. The first request is for **\$2,900,000** to replace 6,400 feet of the town's cast-iron water main on Bird Street, Spring Street, Allen Street, and Riverview Place. This is part of an ongoing project to replace the entire main. The second request is for **\$2,910,000** to construct an alternate pipeline to move water to and from central storage on Washington Street and High Plain Street to Old Post Road. The total recommended cost for this Article from the Town Administrator is **\$5,810,000** from Water Borrowing.

Discussion & Finalization of Recommendations

The Capital Budget Committee went through each Capital Budget Article and asked any remaining questions they had to the department heads who were present.

Article 6: Noreen Gordon asked Landis Hershey if there could be more parking closer to Willett Pond so fewer pedestrians would have to cross heavy traffic. Landis Hershey stated that the deed prevents constructing parking spaces that close to the pond. The proposed pathway is slightly off of the street and would not be too dangerous, and they are also considering adding a painted crosswalk and signage.

MOTION by Ed Forsberg for favorable action on Article 6 in the amount of \$1,993,750 from Free Cash. Seconded by Josette Burke. The motion passed (7-0-0).

Article 7: Josette Burke asked whether the Police Department's Taser request was for \$121,200 or \$121,500. Jim Johnson stated that the request is for \$121,200 and corrected his recommendation to reflect the accurate figure. Ed Forsberg asked if the Tasers would be replaced all at once or staggered. Police Chief Richard Kelleher stated that all the current Tasers are obsolete, so the entire set would be replaced as soon as possible.

MOTION by Cheryl Caron for favorable action on Article 7 in the amount of \$2,294,200, with \$2,094,200 from Free Cash and \$200,000 from the Ambulance Fund). Seconded by Josette Burke. The motion passed (7-0-0).

Article 8: David Thornton asked about Ch. 90 Funds. Patrick Shield explained that it is an annual allocation from the state for investments in local transportation, and the \$781,146 is in addition to the other funding sources the town is attributing to this article for street and draining improvements.

MOTION by Ed Forsberg for favorable action on Article 8 in the amount of \$1,524,146 with \$733,000 from Free Cash, \$781,146 from Chapter 90 Funds, and \$10,000 from Cemetery Receipts. Seconded by Cheryl Caron. The motion passed (7-0-0).

MOTION by Cheryl Caron for favorable action on Article 9 in the amount of \$1,480,000 from Water Retained Earnings. Seconded by Ed Forsberg. The motion passed (7-0-0).

MOTION by Cheryl Caron for favorable action on Article 10 in the amount of \$50,000 from Sewer Retained Earnings. Seconded by Josette Burke. The motion passed (7-0-0).

MOTION by Justin Haner for favorable action on Article 11 in the amount of \$5,810,000 from Water Borrowing. Seconded by David Thornton. The motion passed (6-0-1) (Ed Forsberg abstained).

Adjournment

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

The Capital Budget Committee adjourned at 8:15pm.