

Finance Committee Meeting September 9, 2021
Finance Committee Meeting Room Town Hall

Present: (Z - zoom)

Finance Committee

Roll Call 14 in attendance:

Mark Trudell	Steve Hendricks (Z)
Dennis Crowley	Jean Kenney
Josette Burke	Alice Susan Lawson
Andrew Flowers (Z)	Lawrence Pitman
Jeff Fisher	Douglas Shea (Z)
Kathleen Foley Greulich (Z)	Mark Sullivan
Allyson Hamilton (Z)	Lisa Van der Linden (Z)

Absent: Lucy Romanowiz

Additional attendees:

Jim Johnson	Ed Forsberg	Rick Mattson	Bill Buckley	Bridget Gough
Patrick Shield	Jodi Cuneo	Tim Bailey	Rich Kelleher	Michael Friscia

The meeting was called to order by Mark Trudell at 7:00pm

Discussion on Fall Town Meeting Articles 6, 7, 8,& 9

Article 6 – Capital Infrastructure - Total of \$4,417,295 (\$4,390,000 Free Cash and \$27,295 Re-appropriated funds)

Capital Budget Committee Chair Ed Forsberg presented the proposed Capital Infrastructure improvements:

Allen Dam Peer Review, update/repair the dam - estimated total cost of \$1.5 Million (65/35 split with NRCC – National Resource Conservation Commission) Responsible for \$ 60,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable for \$60,000 out of free cash**

Drainage and Roadway Improvements – June Street, East Walpole
Prevent and correct ground water that has been causing damage for many years.
\$280,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action out of free cash**

Bridge Study Masterplan – (15 Bridges) Analyze and prioritize repairs. Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$60,000 from free cash**

Drainage Study – (Areas 1-5) Including School Street, Hemlock Street, Common, McDonald Circle, Washington Street and the two MBTA bridges \$120,000 was requested . Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$100,000 from free cash**

Traffic Signal at Washington street/Polly Lane/Short Street Intersection – Correction of drainage, paving, curbing, and traffic signal. Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$650,000 from free cash**

Bridge Repair on the intersection of Elm Street and East Street over the Neponset River – Prepare the plans and Bid Documents include a chapter 85 review. Requested \$212,000, Capital Budget **voted favorable action for \$200,000 from free cash**

Synthetic Turf Replacement Fund (Fund is contributed to annually) Requested \$75,000 voted **favorable action for \$100,000** (More fields to keep up)

New Playground Equipment for Caroline Woodward Playground – Requesting \$332,000 Capital Budget **voted favorable action for \$332,000**

Street Light Conversion to LED – Need to purchase the pole for \$206,000, Purchase & Install \$450,545, Wireless Controls \$43,455 (reducing the Towns electric by 50% each Year). Estimated cost of \$800,000 Capital Budget **voted favorable action for \$800,000**

Blackburn Hall Roof Replacement (Metal) & Air Condition the upper hall – Requested \$425,000 Capital Budget **voted favorable action for \$425,000**

Replacement of the Town Hall Generator – Request \$275,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$150,000** balance to come from remaining money from other generator install \$125,000

Old Post Road School – Redesign the media room (make it a multi-use room) Requested \$240,000 Capital Budget **voted no action at this time**

Emergency Repair Fund – Requested \$50,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$50,000**

Painting and Demolition (repairs) of the Old Town Hall- Requested \$285,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$180,295**

Playground Renovations at all four Elementary schools – Requested \$200,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$200,000 (\$50,000 per school)**

Walpole High School Driveway & Parking Extension (drop off area) – Requested \$600,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$600,000**

Walpole High School Retaining Wall in the front of the building – Requested \$180,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$160,000**

Information System – Replace the aging Fiber Optic System – Requested \$50,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$50,000**

Bay Circle Trail Sign – Request \$10,000, Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$10,000**

Public Parking Signage for Downtown area – Request for \$10,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$10,000**

The total requested amount for Article 6 was \$5,124,000. The Town Administrator had allotted \$4,367,000, and the Capital Budget Committee voted for \$4,417,295 (\$4,390,000 from Free Cash and \$27,295 Re-appropriated funds).

Article 7 - Capital Equipment - \$1,322,793.00

Retirement System Study – Request to pay for a study to look into the legality and consequences of leaving the Norfolk County Retirement System. Town Counsel had already advised against this. Capital Budget voted **no action at this time**

REAL Equity and Diversity Training – Requesting \$ 15,000 for remote online training Dept. heads Capital Budget **voted favorable action for \$15,000**

DPW – 14 ft. Landscape trailer enclosed – Requested \$14,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$14,000**

DPW – Deck over trailer (larger) – Request \$12,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$12,000**

Parks & Cemetery – 18ft Trailer Enclosed Request \$16,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$16,000**

Parks & Cemetery – Stand-On Leaf Blower – Request \$12,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$12,000**

Vehicle Maintenance Replace 2006 Dump Truck with 10 Wheel Truck - Request \$ 420,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$420,000**

Replace 2007 Ford Ranger Pickup Truck (2) - Request \$28,000 each, Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$28,000 (x2)**

Replace 2011 Ford Focus with a 4x4 Explorer - Request \$ 38,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$38,000**

Replace 2010 Ford F150 - Request \$ 35,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$35,000**

Replace 2008 Ford Explorer - Request \$ 35,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$35,000**

Highway Dept. Solar-Powered Message Board – Request \$19,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$19,000**

Highway Dept. 2500 Gallon Storage Snow/Ice (liquid) salt bin to pre-treat roads – Request \$ 22,000
Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$22,000**

Public Safety Police New Cruiser - Request \$62,685 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$62,685**

Portable AED Machines (5) - Request \$8,000 total Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$8,000**

Police Mountain Bikes - Request \$10,600 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$10,600**

Fire Dept. – Replace the Backup Batteries for the Station – Request \$9,060.00 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$9,060.00**

Fire Dept. – Purchase a Thermal Camera – Request \$25,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$25,000.00**

Fire Dept. – 20 sets of Turnout Gear – Request \$121,484.00 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$121,484.00**

Fire Dept. – (13) New Radios – Request \$57,464.00 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$57,464.00**

Fires Dept. – Ford F150 Pickup Truck – Request for \$ 50,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$50,000**

School – New blinds for the classrooms (all 4 elementary schools) – Request \$95,000 Capital Budget **voted favorable action for \$95,000**

School – New cafeteria tables for all four elementary schools – Request \$50,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$50,000**

Special Education Van – Request \$35,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$35,000** being funded through moneys from the bus contract

Bird Middle School Score Board – Request \$35,000 Capital Budget voted **no action at this time**

Elm Street School Traffic Study – Request \$10,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$10,000**

Culture & Recreation Pool Sanitation System Replacement – Request \$18,500 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$18,500**

Recreation Dept. Strategic Plan Feasibility Study Design For Services – Request \$50,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$50,000 (Master Plan)**

300 Year Anniversary Expenses 2024 – Request \$50,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$50,000**

Finance Department – MUNIS Software Upgrade – Request \$11,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$ 11,000**

Total for Article 7: **\$ 1,322,793.00** (1,059,785 in free cash and \$263,008 from the ambulance revolving fund)

Article 8 – Capital Street Improvements - \$835,999

Culvert Repair & Replace Drain Pipe – Request \$15,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$15,000**

Guard Rail Repair throughout the Town – Request \$14,900 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$14,900**

Hot Fiber Crack Seal – Request \$45,000 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$35,000**

Paving Throughout the Town – Request \$771,099 Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$771,099 (Chapter 90)**

Total for Article 8 - **\$835,999.00** (\$64,900 Free Cash & \$771,099 Chapter 90 money)

Article 9 – Capital Borrowing - \$1,825,000

Equipment & Infrastructure Improvements Request for \$1.5 million for resurfacing Roadways (\$750,000), Sidewalks (\$350,000), and Parking Lots (\$400,000)
Capital Budget voted **favorable action for \$1,050,000**

Replacement 2 Fire Engines- (2009 E1 and 1999 E1) Requesting \$1,320,000, however we received a grant for \$540,000. Requested amount is now **\$775,000** for both engines **voted favorable action**

Total for Article 9 - **\$1,825,000**

Vote on Articles 6, 7, 8, and 9

Motion by Dennis Crowley and seconded by Susan Lawson for **Favorable Action on Article 6** in the amount of **\$4,417,295** (\$4,390,000 from Free Cash, \$27,294 from Appropriated Funds)
The motion passed 14-0-0

Motion by Dennis Crowley and seconded by Susan Lawson for **Favorable Action on Article 7** in the amount of **\$1,322,793** (\$1,059,785 from Free Cash, \$263,008 from Ambulance Fund)
The motion passed 14-0-0

Motion by Dennis Crowley and seconded by Susan Lawson for **Favorable Action on Article 8** in the amount of **\$835,999** (\$64,900 from Free Cash, \$771,099 from Chapter 90 Funds)
The motion passed 14-0-0

Motion by Dennis Crowley and seconded by Susan Lawson for **Favorable Action on Article 9** in the amount of **\$1,825,000** from General Fund Borrowing
The motion passed 13-1-0 (**Lawrence Pittman no; would rather see ambulance fund used for the fire engine instead of incurring additional debt**)

Next meeting: September 13, 2021 at 7:00pm

Adjournment

Motion by Jeff Fisher and seconded by Susan Lawson to adjourn
The motion passed 14-0-0.

The Finance Committee adjourned at 9:20pm.