

Capital Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 29, 2017

Members attended: J.Burke, D.Donnellan, E.Forsberg, N.Gordon, T.Hempton, A. Tedesco

Absent: A.Healy

Attending: J.Johnson Town Administrator, Chief Bailey, Cliff Snuffer, Jr. & Dan Ryan of Ponds Committee

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

The Town Administrator gave an overview of Capital items for our consideration.

Article 3: Funds to design playing fields

In the Spring of 2013 Town Meeting authorized the BOS to purchase 64.5 acres from the DOC, the first time the DOC has sold property. This is a necessary project. Weston & Sampson was hired by Town for current site analysis, conceptual plans and projected budget to develop this land. The proposed site is located on Rt.1A between power plant and Southwood Hospital. This article is a \$500,000 request from Free Cash. It is a 2-4 year project in total with a final full cost of between \$6-8 million. There is a documented need of sports fields in Walpole from many user groups. This article requests funds to solicit qualifications for a design firm to formally develop plans and specifications for Town to bid out for construction of new playing fields.

Article 4: Funds to replace the Fire Department's 1989 Ladder Truck

Chief Bailey provided a presentation on the 1989 E1 ladder truck to be replaced. It is currently averaging \$121,000 in repairs. A Tower Truck with a basket, pump, and hose-line will be more versatile. New buildings coming to our town are four and five stories in height. There are safety issues with the existing ladder truck, given its age. The trade in value is somewhere between \$5,000 and \$1,000. Cost is \$1.5million. Siemens gifted the Town \$250,000 for this purchase and these funds have already been received and will be applied towards new Truck. Request is \$1,250,000 from Free Cash. This Truck will be fully loaded with all necessary firefighting features and will take a year to bid out and build.

Article 5: Funds to dredge Memorial Pond

Ponds Committee representing their view of the need to dredge this town asset before it disappears. Fall Town Meeting voted the Town \$80,000 for permitting and design of dredging. ESS Group has served as the Town's consultant pursuing all permits. The project appears before the Conservation Commission on September 13. Best time for dredging is winter. This project will have a ten foot buffer around pond. There are only eight neighbors who are all in favor of this project. The \$1,000,000 request from Free Cash will completely cover all dredging costs. The Town anticipates a possible reuse of dredged spoils to be used as a base on the Route 1A fields project

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Josette Burke
Finance Committee Liaison to Capital Budget Committee