

MINUTES
CAPITAL OUTLAY COMMITTEE
February 1, 2016

The meeting of the Capital Outlay Committee was called to order in the Town Hearing Room at Sharon Community Center at 7:00 pm by Chair Paul Linehan.

Members Present:

Chair:	Paul Linehan
Board of Selectmen:	William A. Heitin, Walter “Joe” Roach, John J. McGrath*
Finance Committee:	Gordon Gladstone and Alex Korin
School Committee:	Katie Currel-Dykeman and Emily Smith-Lee
Planning Board:	Robert Maidman and Louis Modestino
Town Administrator:	Frederic E. Turkington, Jr. (Ex-Officio)

Others Present:

School Department:	Rory Marty, Director of Operations
IT Director:	Donald Hillegass
Police Chief:	Tilden Kaufman
Police Lieutenant:	John Ford
Fire Chief:	James Wright

Administrative Items

Chair Paul Linehan requested that the Capital Outlay Committee members introduce themselves.

MOTION: (Heitin-Roach) To approve the Regular Session Minutes of December 17, 2015 and January 9, 2016

VOTED: (7-1-0) **PASSES** (Currel-Dykeman Abstaining)

*Selectmen McGrath was in the audience and did not vote.

Review of Preliminary Capital Outlay Spreadsheet

Chairman Linehan reviewed each line item of the capital request spreadsheet with the committee. Mr. Turkington noted that two versions of the spreadsheet were provided to the Committee reflecting two alternatives to the ADA compliance needs at the Town Hall and reuse of the Fire Station. One version shows additional funds to expand the Town Hall ADA compliance study to include the reuse of the Fire Station and the other version includes funds for the work necessary to make the Town Hall ADA compliant.

Police

The Police Department requested additional vehicles and a new computer CAD/RMS System.

Civil Defense

Civil Defense has requested power distribution equipment.

Fire Department

The Fire Department requests were discussed. Chief Wright explained that the radio fire alarm system will be installed at the new Public Safety Building. He noted they could transfer the existing system over, but it is over 10 years old and due for replacement. This will allow them to install the new system without taking the existing system out of operation for the transfer. Chief Wright also noted that the Fire Department applied for a federal grant to help fund the cot restraint system request. If selected, the grant would cover approximately 90% of the cost. With regard to the radio receiver site on Route 1, Mr. Turkington believes it would be a good candidate for a free cash purchase.

Recreation

The Recreation Department request to rehabilitate the fields at the Middle School and the Ames Street playground rehab is being considered by the Community Preservation Committee. Funding will be sought through CPC first and then COC as an alternative if denied.

Council on Aging

Mr. Turkington noted that the Council on Aging request for a vehicle for medical appointments was fulfilled by using an existing town vehicle from the Police Department.

Library

The Library request for a new furnace was briefly discussed with Director Lee Ann Amend. They requested a quote from *Automatic Temperature Control* for a burner replacement only, but they could not guarantee or warranty that it would solve the issue.

Department of Public Works

It was noted that the DPW request for 396 Main Street demolition must be purchased with cash since there will be no resulting asset from the demolition. The request for work at One School Street has been submitted to CPC. The Board of Selectmen has not yet taken a stance on how to proceed with the ADA Compliance at Town Hall line item.

Schools

The School's 1:1 laptop initiative request for *Apple MacBooks* was discussed by the Committee. Mr. Korin believes the program can be implemented by using a lower cost alternative to *Macbooks*. He did research that showed nearly all the programs that can run on *Apple* laptops can also run on *Microsoft* laptops which, according to Mr. Korin, are considerably less expensive. Mr. Maidman wants the School Committee to look into ways to diminish the cost to the Town for these devices. Ms. Smith-Lee noted they are looking into a hybrid model where students would be able to purchase their own device. Paul Linehan noted the type of device selected should remain under the purview of the School Committee and their technical department.

Mr. Turkington noted that the Selectmen have been asked to sign the Statement of Interest for the Heights Elementary School Roof project at their next meeting. There was some discussion about the reduced cost over last year's request. The School Committee is now only requesting the design services amount for entry into the program and will intend to borrow or use cash for the entire amount via Annual Town Meeting vote, if they are selected for the program.

The School Department's athletic fields study request was discussed. The request for the study is only bondable if performed by a licensed professional engineer or architect. If a sports group is used for the study it will not qualify for borrowing. The first phase of the Fields project will go before the Community Preservation Committee for funding and the later phases will seek other funding sources such as private and Capital Outlay funds.

Change borrowing percentage of net operating budget limit from 6.5% to 6%

The Committee discussed lower the percentage of net operating budget threshold limit from 6.5% to 6%. Mr. Linehan noted that they have been trying to keep the percentage used of the operating budget down and have succeeded in keeping it under 6% in recent years. He believes changing the percentage shows the effort the Capital Outlay Committee is making to keep borrowing costs down.

MOTION: (Roach-Heitin) To approve changing the borrowing percentage threshold from 6.5% to 6% of the net operating budget

VOTED: (8-0-0) PASSES

Adjournment

VOTED: Linehan-Roach (8-0-0) To adjourn the meeting at 8:23pm - unanimous