

**MINUTES**  
**CAPITAL OUTLAY COMMITTEE**  
*December 12, 2019*

The meeting of the Capital Outlay Committee was called to order in the Town Hearing Room at Sharon Community Center at 7:05 pm by Chair, Paul Linehan.

*Members Present*

Chair:	Paul Linehan
Board of Selectmen:	William Heitin
Finance Committee:	Ann Keitner
Planning Board:	Rob Maidman, David Blazkowsky
Town Administrator:	Frederic Turkington, Jr.
Finance Director:	Krishan Gupta

*Members Absent*

Board of Selectmen:	Emily Smith-Lee
School Committee:	Katie Curral-Dykeman; Fern Fergus
Finance Committee:	Anja Bernier, Gordon Gladstone

*Others Present*

Civil Defense:	James Wright, Fire Chief; Michael Polimer
Department of Public Works:	Eric Hooper, Superintendent
Recreation:	Linda Berger, Director

**Administrative Items**

Chair Paul Linehan asked the Capital Outlay Committee members to introduce themselves.

**MOTION:** (Maidman-Heitin) To approve the regular session minutes of November 7, 2019.

**VOTED:** 4-0-1, November 7, 2019 minutes (Keitner abstained) **PASSES**

**Department Presentations**

**Civil Defense – Michael Polimer**

Mr. Polimer reviewed outstanding capital items and the 5 year plan which was presented. Civil Defense has expended only \$40,000 of previously allocated funds for the Civil Defense building. Mr. Polimer explained that they are still moving along on that project.

This year, Civil Defense is requesting \$11,000 for a three-phase generator and \$50,000 additional for the new building. Mr. Blazkowsky asked about the generator at the public safety building. Mr. Polimer explained that they would like the generator for a back-up. He feels that having this equipment will eliminate the need for deciding whether to power the Community Center or the Communication Room in the Public Safety Building during a prolonged power outage. Mr. Blazkowsky asked whether the Communications Center at Public Safety already has a generator.

Mr. Maidman asked about the \$50,000 for the civil defense building. \$350,000 was allocated previously. Construction activity was suspended until a land swap is approved with the National Parks Service. If this \$50,000 is granted, the total allocation would amount to \$390,000. There is an architect involved in the building project at this time.

The Town is in the process of negotiating a small parcel of wetlands suitable to National Parks Service. This parcel is 5 to 6 acres of land owned by Temple Adath. The swapped land is a small, non-conforming lot that would be suitable for Temple Adath. It is expected that the National Parks Service will approve this land swap. Once they grant approval, the process goes to Select Board then Town Meeting for approval. It is hoped that construction may begin in May. Mr. Polimer thanked Chief Wright and Fred Turkington for the time they've invested in getting the project to this point.

### **Recreation Department – Linda Berger, Director**

Ms. Berger provided a review expenditures from the previous Capital cycle. She advised that one project valued at \$19,000 has closed and a little over \$2,000 was turned back. Ms. Berger has submitted a five-year plan which has been included in the binder materials for the Committee's review.

First item for consideration is outdoor AED stations which are weather resistant and would be installed at all outdoor facilities, Deborah Sampson Park, Ames Street, Gavins Pond, and one at the Veterans Memorial Park Beach. They would be hardwired and when the door is opened, EMS would be alerted. Stop the bleed and other emergency kits would also be included in boxes. Chief Wright helped put this program together. The cost for this is outlined at \$27,540.

It was asked whether there are any security features, it was explained that they would be temperature and climate controlled only. Chief Wright explained that these stations are needed at locations where large crowds are gathered. Chief Wright further stated that there is copious evidence now that the chain of survival helps save lives. He can't specifically state that there has been one instance where this would have been utilized but odds are that it may in the future.

It was asked whether any neighboring communities have these stations and whether there has been any feedback. It was explained that these stations have been seen more in other climates, but not locally. Annual inspection is the only maintenance that will be required. Mr. Blazkowski asked about the structures durability in this New England climate and the response was that they are designed to withstand typical New England winter.

There are two vehicles listed as part of the materials which were included. There is a plow on one of the vehicles which is used by DPW during snow plowing operations. The Department does have an older Ford Explorer which was passed down by the Police Department but it has outlived its useful life. The Department has a need for another pickup truck which would be useful in transporting equipment and supplies to and from program activities.

It was asked whether there were any comments from the maintenance techs on the condition of existing vehicles. There has recently been some work done on the vehicles. Ball joints were just replaced. It was explained that there is a need but Mr. Turkington will explore possible alternatives.

There was a third project, but it was pulled back because of field space with schools. Paul Driscoll led a master plan for fields in 2016. East Street fields are being reconstructed and significant improvements have been made with respect to fields. Field plan 2.0 is being designed now. There is potential for field lights at Ames. Mr. Heitin

provided some insight as the Select Board is currently taking the fields shortage under advisement. The Town is trying to alleviate pressure for space. The Fields Committee and Select Board are looking to extend play into the evenings with lights. Pickleball courts are being requested of CPC. Fields will have to be maintained and possibly reconstructed. If not at Ames, there are limited other opportunities for field space. Fields also need rest as part of regular maintenance.

Mr. Turkington advised that once the borrowing is done for the capital plan, the exact number of commitment for Rattlesnake Hill will be known. The FY20 CPA funds were purposely not included in the calculation. The amount of CPC funds available for rec within the next year or two, it makes sense to use that funding rather than borrow for it.

A turf field would be a great investment for the Town because it will stand up to repeated use. Every other community in the Hockomock league has a turf field which allows those communities to rest their grass fields. The possibility lighting at Ames been approached with the neighborhood? There are not many direct abutters which would be affected. Lighting would be directed toward the field. In the summer, the fields are being played until 9 pm. The neighborhood will be engaged when the process begins. Ames Street fields always had been lit. The lights are unused today.

Mr. Maidman asked whether there have been any discussions with nearby camps regarding land availability. Camp Everwood has offered help during the crunch period when the High School project will limit field space.

#### **Public Works, Water Department Requests – Eric Hooper, Superintendent**

Mr. Hooper cannot provide any balances from prior projects at this point as they are still receiving bills for road work. It is hoped that they can present figures in January.

The asphalt management plan for the upcoming year includes replacement of East Street from Paul Revere to Ames; Gunhouse Street from Beach to E. Foxboro Street; Dedham Street from Edgehill to Canton Street; and Old Post Road from Pine Street to Walpole Street. These will all be cold plane and overlay which is less expensive than reclamation. As these roads are in decent shape, they don't require complete reconstruction. Sidewalks on East and Gunhouse will be replaced exclusively where they presently exist.

East and Morse Streets will be reconstructed from Chapter 90 funds. These projects will be full reclamation.

#### **Facilities**

The audio closet at the Community Center ballroom at the Community Center equipment is outdated and needs replacement. The ballroom and lobby floors which were requested in the past will be funded through the Community Center facility revolving fund.

DPW has also pulled expansion of DPW lobby from consideration this year. DPW was able to make use of furniture and appliances from Town Hall and other various departments.

There are no requests involving DPW administration at this time. There are requests for a large dump truck and small dump truck for Forestry, and Administrator pick up for Forestry and Grounds.

Following the master plan for the Water Department, there is a request for a large dump for the Water Department to replace an older 1996 model. There is a request for water main replacement. This cost is down to \$450,000 due to being complete more this calendar year with advantageous pricing and easy excavation.

Water main replacement will target center of town, addressing old pipes and lead services near Cottage and the Library. There are 70 or so lead services which need replacement. There are few service problems in the Cottage Street area, so DPW is thinking about cleaning and lining. There are a couple different options which include a router or pig to ream the pipe. One method would spray cement inside pipe, the other would be an inflated sleeve if the existing pipe has no structural integrity. There are only two companies completing this work which is escalating the pricing.

A water meter replacement project is being discussed at this time. The Department is going through process of looking at technologies. A fixed network of some kind is expected. The technology for radio component for a fixed network has improved. The Department is exploring the possibility of Town wide Wi-Fi network. There are a couple of options, one of which would be Comcast providing infrastructure but Sharon would maintain it. There was a brief discussion about the possibility or feasibility of a Wi-Fi system. It was asked whether other utility companies are considering this meter reading technology. Mr. Hooper doesn't believe so, but the issue is timing. Many of the water department's meters are cycling out now so there is a time-sensitive need for a replacement.

Mr. Maidman had questions about the equipment being requested, specifically whether one of the dump trucks would be an addition to the current fleet or a replacement. Mr. Hooper explained that Public Works has maintained a fleet of so many vehicles. One of the older pieces of equipment would be cycled out of service. The second question involved the details on the excavator which was provided.

Mr. Blazkowsky asked to go back briefly about the meters issue and asked about consolidating services where there could be collateral benefits and significant savings. Over the next couple of years, perhaps there may be an opportunity to work amongst all utilities. It was explained that the Water Management Advisory Committee has been discussing this but lacks the expertise to delve into it too deeply.

**MOTION:** (Heitin-Blazkowsky) To adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm.  
**VOTED:** 5-0-0 **PASSES**