

MINUTES
CAPITAL OUTLAY COMMITTEE
December 2, 2021

Members Present

Chair:	Paul Linehan
Select Board:	Hanna Switekowski, Emily Smith-Lee
Finance Committee:	Anja Bernier, Ann Keitner, and Jada Wang, Alternate
Planning Board:	Rob Maidman, David Blaszkowski
School Committee:	Adam Shain; Prisnel Dominique
Town Administrator:	Frederic Turkington, Jr.
Finance Director:	Krishan Gupta

Members Absent

Select Board:	William Heitin, Alternate
Planning Board:	Kai Yu, Alternate
School Committee:	Avi Shemtov, Alternate

Others Present

Dept. of Public Works:	Eric Hooper, Superintendent
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Administrative Items

The meeting of the Capital Outlay Committee was called to order on Zoom at 7:00 pm by Chair, Paul Linehan.

MOTION: (Switekowski - Blaszkowski) To approve the regular session minutes of November 4, 2021.

VOTED: 7-0-2, **PASSES**
Roll call vote: Switekowski, Shain, Dominique, Bernier, Wang, Maidman, and Blaszkowski voting in favor of approval; Smith-Lee and Keitner abstain.

Department Presentations

Public Works – Eric Hooper, Superintendent

Mr. Hooper provided an overview of the capital requests for the operations and forestry and grounds divisions of Public Works.

The DPW will also be undertaking resurfacing of the following roadways funded via Chapter 90 (gas tax) reimbursement (\$660,000):

- Pilgrim Drive (Chapter 90). Lakeview to end (Cold Plane, 900 linear feet).
- Pioneer Circle (Chapter 90). Pilgrim to end (Cold Plane, 900 linear feet).
- Furnace Street (Chapter 90). Wolomolopoag to Gavins Pond (Cold Plane, 3700 linear feet).
- Barefoot Hill Road (Chapter 90). Foxfire to Cul de Sac (Cold Plane, 2000 linear feet).
- Saw Mill Pond (Chapter 90). Richards to Cul de Sac (Cold Plane, 1250 linear feet).

Facility: \$500,000

- Single row, dry storage units. (Same as double row adjacent to Salt Shed) These units will replace the roll-off containers currently used to house building department and engineering department records that are no longer weatherproof. (\$40,000).
- Replacement shed for garage storage (current shed scavenged from former Fire Department location) (\$10,000)
- Replace existing underground storage tanks (UST). There are currently two 10,000-gallon underground storage tanks at our facility. Both tanks are double wall and were installed in 1993. One tank is constructed of fiberglass and the second is constructed of steel. (\$450,000).
This cost estimate assumes the existing tanks will be removed, and two new 10,000-gallon double wall fiberglass tanks will be installed. A cost contingency of \$100,000 for work required for contaminated soil or groundwater is included in the cost estimate.

Equipment: \$455,000

- Large Dump/Plow – Operations Division. \$255,000. This will replace present #17, a 2001 Ford Sterling which has failed inspection due to rusted frame and chassis and consequently no longer roadworthy. This truck had roughly \$16,000 in repairs during the past three years to keep the vehicle roadworthy, including roughly \$4000 last year to allow for use last winter as a plow truck. The current odometer shows roughly 56000 miles. However, the odometer has not been working properly for several years, true mileage is not known. This vehicle is a front-line vehicle used by the Operations Division for all construction activities throughout Town and for all plowing and sanding operations.
- Multi-purpose tractor (Trackless) \$200,000, to replace #66, a 2003 Trackless with roughly 4100 hours that has had significant maintenance costing approximately \$27,900 in parts plus outside labor over the last two years. The Trackless is used is a frontline vehicle by the Operations and Forestry Grounds for all construction activities throughout Town and for all plowing and sanding of sidewalks.

The DPW will also be using Chapter 90 reimbursement to fund the purchase of the following piece of equipment:

- Street Sweeper – (Elgin Pelican or equivalent) \$300,000. The street sweeper will allow the Town to continue to comply with EPA MS4 NPDES (storm water) permit requirements. Street sweeping reduces pollutants and sediments entering the storm drain system, thereby reducing resulting contamination to waterways and groundwater from atmospheric deposition, vehicle emissions, winter road maintenance, trash, road wear and grass and other landscape materials. Approximately \$40,000 has been spent in parts and outside labor in the past two years maintaining the present 2008 Elgin sweeper.

The Water Department is making the following capital request for FY2023 based on the continuation of the revised Water Master Plan:

PFAS Treatment: \$15.8 million, Two Well Option – Wells 2 and 4 at Well 2 site

- FY23 \$8.6 million
- FY24 \$7.2 million

Main Replacement: \$1,250,000

- Phase 3 of 3 of the Walnut/Oakland Road Area water main replacement project.

System Maintenance: \$350,000

- Residential Irrigation Water Meter Replacement Installation.

It was asked if the temporary PFAS fix is working and if routine testing is being conducted. Mr. Hooper replied that the system is working very well. If there were to be failures, notices are required to be sent immediately. He further stated that PFAS have been detected at Wells 2 and 4. There has been some at Well 3 but it is below the new state-imposed detection limit. There have also been detections at Well 6 off Old Wolomolopoag. Mr. Hooper stated that Sharon is not alone in dealing with this PFAS problem. Several other area water systems are impacted.

The Department is pursuing other avenues of funding including grants, 0% loan financing options, or state revolving fund.

Mr. Linehan reminded the Committee that they do not vote on Water Department requests as all expenses are paid through water receipts, but the requests do represent a borrowing and thus has impact in that regard. Mr. Turkington explained that the borrowing will not begin until February 2023. If supply chain issues remain at that time, borrowing will be delayed as well.

There were brief discussions about opportunities for infrastructure improvement to spur economic development downtown and whether bonding costs for the next fiscal year can be anticipated. In reply it was stated that bonding costs cannot forecast due to their volatile nature.

Ms. Switekowski asked about the status of the Complete Streets application. Mr. Hooper explained that at least three sidewalks are scheduled to be replaced at this time.

Ms. Wang asked how PFAS is treated. Mr. Hooper explained that the medium used to filter PFAS is either resin or charcoal. At this time, it is unknown how long the filter media will last before requiring replacement. The current filtration system has been in place for six months with no breakthrough with demand of a half million gallons per day.

The Committee thanked Mr. Hooper for his presentation. Mr. Linehan advised that the School Department will make their presentation on December 9.

MOTION: (Bernier - Keitner) To adjourn the meeting at 7:49 pm.

VOTED: 9-0-0 **PASSES**

Roll call vote: Smith-Lee, Switekowski, Shain, Dominique, Bernier, Wang, Keitner, Maidman, and Blaszkowski voting in favor of approval.