

Town of Rockland, MA  
Capital Planning Committee

TOWN CLERK, ROCKLAND  
FEB 19 '23 4:17:56

**DATE:** Thursday, February 2, 2023, 7:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Rockland Town Hall, Lower Conference Room 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

**ATTENDEES:** Richard Harris, Chairman  
Chris Fulton, Vice Chairman  
Bill Principe  
Doug Walo  
Linda Sternfelt, Secretary

**GUESTS:** Kristel Cameron, Tom Royal: Water Department  
Eugene Gingras: IT Department  
Peter Ewell, Rich Furlong, Joe Reis: Park Department

**ABSENTEES:** Lauren White

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Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

The committee reviewed the minutes of the January 19, 2023 meeting. Mr. Principe made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Ms. Sternfelt seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Harris reviewed the Water Department items on the existing capital plan. He asked Ms. Cameron if \$50K in meter replacements were completed in FY2023. She stated that they were. She also stated that she wanted to continue with this on an ongoing basis every year. Chairman Harris asked if water main road repairs were done in FY2023. Ms. Cameron stated that they were, and that she wanted to maintain the \$40K per year in the capital plan for that purpose in FY2024 and FY2025. She also said that the water plant infrastructure upgrades were completed for FY2023, and that she would like to maintain \$100K per year for that purpose in FY2024-FY2026. Ms. Cameron stated that the water tanks (\$3 million) can be pushed out to FY2025. Residuals removal was completed in FY2023. Residuals separation should remain in FY2025 in the amount of \$250K. Payment for the backhoe end in FY2023. PFAS treatment is a secured loan of \$13 million that the Town obtained in FY2023 that will be paid back over the next twenty years.

Chairman Harris invited Ms. Cameron to any new capital plan requests. These are as follows:

Hydrant replacement program: \$20K per year for each town over the next five fiscal years, which will replace approximately 10 hydrants per town per year. Source of funding is undesignated fund balance.

Gravity filter rehab: One filter needs work. FY2024 cost of \$60K, which will come from undesignated fund balance. This will have a 25 year life.

GAC filter media replacement: This will cost \$50K per year for 4 years, for a total of \$200K. This is for the Myers Ave. treatment plant, to treat PFAS, and is an ongoing need every year. Chairman Harris said that he would put this on the capital plan, but that he will ask Town Administrator Lapp to ask Town Counsel if this item is appropriate to be placed on the plan as it does not have a useful life of five years and therefore does not appear to be a capital item.

Ecotube: This is a sludge management tool. The cost is \$50K per year over the next four fiscal years, and is an ongoing yearly purchase. Chairman Harris noted that this, too, appears to be a maintenance item rather than a capital item. He will put this on the capital plan, but also run this by Town Counsel.

Hingham Street residuals management program: Cost of \$100K per year over the next four fiscal years, to come out of the undesignated fund balance. This consists of renting backhoes to move the sludge and a trucking company to drive the sludge out. Chairman Harris noted that, if this is an ongoing expense, it likely should be part of the Department's annual budget rather than a capital item. He also noted that this does not have a useful life of over five years. He will also asterisk this to discuss with Town Counsel.

Filter pump upgrades: \$50K per year for the next five fiscal years. The funding will come from the Water undesignated fund balance. Different pumps will be upgraded each year. Each have an approximate life of 10-15 years.

Mr. Principe made a motion to place the items listed by Ms. Cameron on the capital plan, with the understanding that Town Counsel will weigh in on whether the GAC filter media replacement, the Ecotube and the Hingham Street residuals management program are items that should be on the capital plan. Mr. Walo seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Harris reviewed the list of items for the IT Department that are currently on the Capital Plan. Mr. Gingras confirmed that the \$60K for computer and technology upgrades for FY2024 should remain on the plan. He is in process of working with the Town's managed service provider to construct a five year technology plan for the Town.

Chairman Harris asked if there were any new items to add to the Capital Plan.

Mr. Gingras stated that in conjunction with the Town's financial and Human Resources teams, IT was sponsoring the addition of a comprehensive Human Resources Information System. The system has multiple modules, not all of which have to be implemented at once. This is still in the preliminary phases of discussion. The cost is \$145K for implementation in FY 2024. The ongoing cost is based on the number of modules implemented and is not known at this time. Chairman Harris said that he was not sure that the ongoing costs would be a capital item, but he asterisked this to discuss with Town Counsel.

Mr. Walo made a motion to place the items listed by Mr. Gingras on the capital plan. Vice Chairman Fulton seconded the motion. Ms. Sternfelt abstained from voting. Chairman Harris, Vice Chairman Fulton, Mr. Principe and Mr. Walo voted to place the items on the capital plan.

Chairman Harris reviewed the list of items for the Parks Department that are currently on the Capital Plan.

A scoreboard is currently on the plan for FY2024 in the amount of \$65K. Commissioner Reis stated that the Department received a quote for \$93,202 for a new scoreboard with advertising. The veterans in

Town will have to sign off on any advertising. The new scoreboard will have a lifespan of over 5 years. The current scoreboard is obsolete and the Department is having a difficult time getting parts. \$93,202 was put on the capital plan for FY2024.

Bicentennial Park is also on the existing Capital Plan in the amount of \$700K for FY2024. Commissioner Furlong said that this should be pushed out for two years and increased to \$1 million. Prior to reconstructing the park, there needs to be a study to determine what can and cannot be done with the park, and to determine the actual costs. The CPC approved going out to get cost estimates for this. The goal is to use Community Preservation funds to fund the study and possibly the project.

\$200K for Reeds Pond development is also currently on the capital plan. Mr. Furlong said that this should be pushed out to FY2025, as the Town does not own the land yet.

Chairman Harris asked if there were any new items to add to the Capital Plan.

Mr. Ewell asked that \$89K for one Toro mower be placed on the plan for FY 2024. He also requested \$50K for an upgrade to the speaker system at the stadium for FY2024. It is expected that the Schools will help in funding the rest of the cost for this upgrade. Finally, the Department's pickup truck will need to be replaced with a 1 ton dump truck in FY2028. The cost of this is estimated at \$75K.

Ms. Sternfelt made a motion to place the items listed by the Parks Department on the capital plan. Vice Chairman Fulton seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Harris asked if there was any New Business to come before the Committee. There was none.

Chairman Harris asked the Committee members if they could move one of their meetings to a night other than Thursday, as Thursday nights do not work for the Highway Superintendent. It was suggested that the meeting for the week of 3/6/23 take place on 3/6/23 at 7 PM. Chairman Harris will communicate this to the Highway Superintendent.

Chairman Harris indicated that he will reach out to Town Hall, the Library, the Board of Health and the Police Department to determine their availability to present their lists of capital plan revisions and/or requests to the Committee at next week's meeting.

Vice Chairman Fulton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Principe seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Sternfelt, Secretary

