

Town of Rockland, MA
Capital Planning Committee

DATE: Monday, March 6, 2023, 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Rockland Town Hall, Lower Conference Room 1st Floor

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

GUESTS: Dave Taylor, Jane Hackett, Dr. Alan Cron, Jill Maroney, Tim Wells, Town Administrator
Doug Lapp

ABSENTEES: Lauren White

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

Chairman Harris reviewed the Highway Department items on the existing capital plan. Mr. Taylor reviewed the following items from the existing capital plan:

- The Fuel Management System was funded last year. The project is 1/3 of the way complete and should be operational by May.
- Road Repaving & Repair was also funded last year. This should be \$600K for FY 2024, which will include Beech, Spring and Summer Streets, and \$500K for each of the subsequent years of the plan.
- Union Street upgrade will require \$132K for FY 2024.
- 6 wheel dump truck from FY 2023 was delivered last month.
- Service body truck is also in.
- Storage structure for equipment (\$68K) was pulled from the articles in last year's warrant at the last minute, and should be moved to FY 2025, and increased to \$130K due to an increased scope.
- Microsurfacing roads based and Intersection Beech/Spring and Summer remains as is in the plan (\$180K in FY 2025 and \$200K in FY 2024, respectively).

New items placed on the plan are as follows:

- Front end loader, to be paid from marijuana tax revenue, in the amount of \$225K for FY 2024. This will replace an older machine, which will be moved to snow & ice.
- New F350 pickup truck in the amount of \$65K for FY 2024. Old truck will be moved to snow & ice duty. Will be funded by marijuana tax revenue.
- New F650 dump truck (FY 2024) to replace an old one, which will be moved to snow & ice \$129K. Will be funded by marijuana tax revenue.

- Roadwork and drainage work off of Pond Street, which will be preparation for work in the following year, in the amount of \$110K in FY 2024.
- Snow and ice equipment upgrade to a liquid system in the amount of \$80K in FY 2024.
- Curb and sidewalk (Plain St. and Goddard Ave, in the school zone) should be added to the plan in 2024, in the amount of \$120K.
- VFW Drive/Weymouth Street upgrades in the amount of \$80K should be added to the plan for FY 2024.
- A new 10 wheel dump truck for future 10 yard sander with liquid system should be added to the plan for FY 2025 in the amount of \$225K.
- Top coating for the highway parking area and sewer pump station driveway should be added to the plan in the amount of \$185K for FY 2026.
- A mini excavator on wheels for road work and brush cutting should be added to the plan for FY 2026 in the amount of \$130K.

Vice Chairman Fulton made a motion to make the additions and changes to the plan outlined above, as requested by the Highway Superintendent. Mr. Principe seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Jane Hackett and Dr. Alan Cron reviewed the following items from the existing capital plan:

- Elementary school building project amount should be removed from the capital plan, as this is no longer a capital item, it is debt service.
- Computer replacements should stay as is in the plan (\$100K per year), and add one more year.
- Paving the parking lot of the Esten School should stay in the plan, be increased to \$300K and be moved out to FY 2026.
- SPED van leases should be reduced to \$75K for FY 2024 and stay at this level going forward each year.

New items to be placed on the plan are as follows:

- Genitech technology upgrade for door access and cameras: Add \$200K for FY 2024. This would provide a single security platform for all of the schools.
- Upgrades to Esten School phone, cabling and PA system: The PA system in place is obsolete. This upgrade would integrate the NEC system with the other schools so everyone is aware what is going on in the district. \$140K for FY 2024 for these upgrades.
- Upgrade to Esten School playground: Playground is obsolete and does not meet pre-school needs. Esten will house the Town's kindergarten and pre-school classes. The old playground is approximately 50 years old. Cost \$200K, in FY 2024.
- Double entry upgrades for Esten, High School and Middle School buildings to allow screening, pay for additional staff to monitor entrances. \$500K in FY 2024. The Selectmen previously approved ARPA funding for this item.
- Upgrade HVAC and ventilation at Esten School. This building will house summer programs, and the upgrade will be to conditioned air. This item will be for FY 2024 in the amount of \$469K. There is the possibility that this could be funded by a grant.

Mr. Principe made a motion to make the additions and changes to the plan detailed above. Mr. Walo seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Walo asked if the wording on the Town Warrant could be changed from stating that an item was recommended by the Capital Planning Committee to stating that it was approved by the Capital Planning Committee to add to the Town's Capital Plan, as that more accurately describes what the Committee is doing. Town Administrator Lapp will check with Town Counsel and get back to the Committee on this.

Town Administrator Lapp asked that the Committee try to complete its ranking by the end of March so that the warrant can be finalized in time for Town Meeting.

Chairman Harris asked if there was any New Business to come before the Committee. The Committee agreed to meet on Monday, March 13 at 6 PM and on Thursday, March 16 at 6 PM to attempt to complete the rankings by the end of next week, as Chairman Harris also needs to meet with the Town's Finance Committee to present the updated Capital Plan.

Town Administrator Lapp asked the Committee if they would be willing to write a few paragraphs about their methodology for ranking the Town's capital projects. He said that the bond rating agencies asked for this, and that it would be helpful to the Town should it be looking for debt on the new fire station project.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Sternfelt, Secretary