



## TOWN OF NORTON CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: September 22, 2014      Time: 6:06 P.M.

Location: First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall, 70 East Main Street, Norton, MA 02766

Members Present: Robert W. Kimball, Jr., Marge Werner, Paul Helmreich, George Burgess, and Michael D. Yunits

Members Not Present: N/A

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 P.M.

### Highway Department

Keith Silver, Highway Superintendent

Mr. Silver presented information on the Highway Department's request for funds to convert a sweeper into a hook and lift truck. Mr. Silver explained that the cost of the conversion is estimated at \$25,818. He is also requesting a refuse bin/chipper box. With the additions, the cost will be \$37,283.

Mr. Helmreich was interested in learning the age of the sweeper. Mr. Silver advised that the sweeper is a 1994, but the frame is in good shape. Mr. Helmreich asked if it was in good enough shape to last a long time, and Mr. Silver replied that it was.

Mr. Burgess asked what the balance of the Capital Improvements Fund is, and the Town Manager advised that it was around \$300,000.

### Police Department

Brian M. Clark, Chief of Police

Chief Clark presented his department's requests and reminded the Committee that he was asked to wait until the Fall Town Meeting for these items.

The Chief's first request is to replace a front line cruiser, and the estimate is \$34,000. Mr. Helmreich asked the Chief if the past practice has been to replace two vehicles per year. The Chief replied that since he has been here, three vehicles have been replaced per year which reduced repair expenses. The Town Manager asked Chief Clark which vehicle was being replaced. The Chief replied that the 2010 Ford Expedition will be taken off the Police Department's fleet. Mr. Kimball was interested in learning what type of vehicle will be purchased in its place, and the Chief stated the vehicle would be either a Charger or Interceptor.

Chief Clark continued his presentation with his department's request for tasers. The Chief explained to the Committee that the tasers have a five-year life expectancy. The department currently has tasers that have exceeded that life expectancy, with 5 tasers from 2005, 9 from 2007, and 8 from 2008. Chief Clark explained that with the budget cutbacks, the department has not been able to keep up with replacement needs. The

Police Department needs 17 tasers, and the Police budget unfortunately does not include the money necessary to get back on track. Once the 17 tasers are purchased, it is the Chief's intention to include replacements in his budget request maybe every 3 to 4 years. Mr. Helmreich asked what the total number was in the department, and the Chief advised that the total number is 28. Mr. Burgess was interested in learning the frequency of taser usage, and the Chief replied that tasers are used approximately 8 times per year.

#### Fire Department

Chief Paul J. Schleicher, Sr.  
Captain Alvan Fuller, III

Chief Schleicher and Captain Fuller presented the request of the Fire Department. Captain Fuller explained to the Committee that the ladder is 14 years old, and the tires and suspension system are original. Captain Fuller stated that the ladder has been dinged on a couple of items, and the radiator, suspension, and radial tires are in need of replacement. Mr. Kimball reminded the Committee that this request was also put off until the Fall Town Meeting, and it is Fall.

#### Norton Public Schools

Joseph F. Baeta, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Lincoln Lynch, School Business Manager

Mr. Helmreich asked what the number was for school staff that are in need of laptops. Dr. Baeta replied that there are:

- 179 Teachers, guidance, occupational therapists, speech therapists, and secretaries
- 11 Administrators at the schools
- 2 Replacements
- 8 Available as Needed

Dr. Baeta represented to the Committee that once they are in place, the School Department will replace this equipment through its budget. Dr. Baeta added that the School Department's other requests will be handled in other articles at the October town meeting.

The Town Manager mentioned to the Superintendent that there may be a motion at Town Meeting to move the \$100,000 from the Middle School roof article to capital. The Superintendent replied that while the MSBA would not fund the roof project due to the age of the roof, the School Department may be back for this in the future.

The Town Manager discussed the need to have a balance of \$500,000 in capital after the October Town Meeting, adding that this could be accomplished through transfers from Free Cash and from the roof article. Mr. Helmreich expressed his desire to have more than \$500,000, and Mr. Kimball concurred. A motion was made by Mr. Helmreich and seconded by Mr. Kimball to have a balance of \$600,000 in the Capital Improvements Fund after the Fall Town Meeting expenditures. It was so voted 5-0.

Mr. Kimball stated that he is in favor of the Capital Plan Amendment as presented, adding that if the \$200,000 for technology was placed in the School Department's operating budget, it would inflate their budget. Mr. Helmreich stated that as long as this funding request is seed money and technology upgrades are in their budget forever.

The Committee then proceeded with voting its recommendations for the Fall Annual Town Meeting:

- A motion was made by Mr. Kimball and seconded by Mr. Burgess to approve the request of the Police Department in the amount of \$57,150 for a line cruiser and tasers. It was so voted 5-0.
- A motion was made by Mr. Kimball and seconded by Mr. Helmreich to approve the request of the Fire Department for \$20,000 to refurbish Ladder 1. It was so voted 5-0.
- A motion was made by Mr. Kimball and seconded by Ms. Werner for \$204,000 for laptops and technology carts for the School Department. It was so voted 5-0.
- A motion was made by Mr. Kimball and seconded by Mr. Helmreich to approve \$40,000 for the requested hook and lift conversion by the Highway Department. It was so voted 5-0.

In summary, the Capital Improvements Committee voted to amend the FY15 Capital Plan by approving a total of \$321,150 in requests.

**List of Documents and Other Exhibits used at Meeting:**

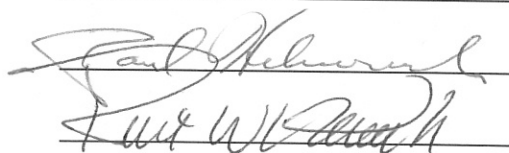
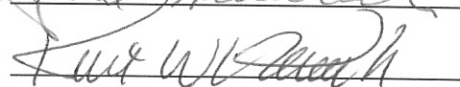
Proposed FY15 Capital Budget Amendment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Kimball and seconded by Mr. Burgess. It was voted 5-0 to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

  
Chairman

Minutes Approved by Committee on: OCT 20, 2014