

Cohasset Advisory Committee – Joint Meeting
Tuesday, April 6, 2021
Virtual Meeting Zoom Video
7:30 pm

Pursuant to MGL c 30A Section 20(b), following Governor Baker's declaration of state of emergency in the Commonwealth arising from COVID-19 Pandemic, the Committee will meet virtually utilizing technology. **All votes will be taken by a Roll Call Vote.**

This meeting was recorded

Documents Received: CPC Projects; Capital Budget Projects; Folder of underlying documents from the CPC and Capital Budget Committee.

Meeting was called to order at 7:38

Advisory Committee Members in attendance: Jeanne Astino, Jean Healey Dippold, Lee Jenkins, Mary McGoldrick, Rob Hillman, Fran Collins, Meg Wheeler.

Select Board members - Diane Kennedy, Paul Schubert, Corey Evans, Keri Thompson, Jack Creighton,

Capital Budget: Sam Wakeman

CPC: Russ Bonetti

Guests: Chris Senior

CPC Article

Paul Schubert presented:

- Historical Preservation, Paul Pratt for \$3,000
- Open Space & Recreation, Cohasset High School Track, \$375,000. Outer track has begun to buckle. Plan is to resurface it with a new material. It does not include the turf field itself or shot put area. This is a full redo of the track.
- Community Housing, Affordable Housing Trust, \$500,00 (use this for affordable housing options and would be within their responsibilities as to how to execute the monies). Some towns have a different pass-through of CPC monies not here. Here, you need to go through Town Meeting, to get the monies.
- Historical Preservation, Town Clock (in the church of the steeple), \$75,000. Noel Ripley keeper of the clock.
- Open Space & Recreation, Cohasset Harbor Town Docks. \$40,000
- Open Space & Recreation, Cohasset Harbor Parker Avenue Ramp, \$385,000 (we have 30% of the project, Seaport grant is for the other 70%).

- Open Space & Recreation, CYBSA, ADA Improvements, \$100,000 (Bring all fields up to compliance for parking, visitors and fans)
- Open Space & Recreation, Deer Hill Softball Field Restoration, \$19,000 (jumping over that tonight). Not sure what the outstanding issues were and CPC would review with the CYBSA folks. That item would need another discussion with the Advisory Committee. That needs official sign-off from the school committee, at which point CPC will discuss it on Monday, and then it would go to Advisory. CPC wants to see what goes before the School Committee.
- Open Space & Recreation, Land Acquisition, \$450,000 (lower King Street property, near outfall at Lily Pond– would not have parking but access to trails). Question of whether it is wetlands and drylands. This is a buildable lot, will connect new Conservation Trust Property with existing Trust and Town properties.

Helene Lieb joined at 8:11 PM

- Open Space & Recreation, Beechwood Basketball Court, \$58,000. Involve repaving, removal of some trees. Basketball court needs to be repaved.
- Open Space & Recreation, Sohler Street Basketball Court, \$13,200. Painting and lining and putting up basketball courts, and put up netting.
- Open Space & Recreation, Miliken Field, \$15,000. He's not sure.
- Open Space & Recreation, Second Preservation/Façade Congregation, \$50,000. CPC funding for churches. Three hurdles to be achieved, a historic building (which it is, on National Registry), on a historic location (which it is), and monies must not be authorized for religious services or items. Discussion of other cases and proposals similar to this have been granted.

What is left in the account for CPC. Surcharge was \$531,000. State match is 30%. In unreserved funds, available after the new fiscal \$3,237,374. Historic account is \$115,900. We will be left with about \$1.6 million. It's been years since we did not exceed the historic and community housing front,

Capital Budget Committee

Sam Wakeman presented capital budget recommendations:

- Described school capital requests (not sure of the total lease amounts)
- Described Facilities request for 2021 RAM (Plow/Pick up)
- Described DPW requests
- Described Police request (two new patrol SUVs per vehicle life schedule)
- Described Fire requests
- Described Recreation requests (supplements to CPC amounts).

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Lee Jenkins, Second by Jeanne A., Fran Collins, Jean Healey Dippold, Lee Jenkins, Meg Wheeler, Helene Lieb, Mary McGoldrick, and Rob Hillman voted aye.

Advisory Committee Meeting was called to order (again) at 8:57 p.m.

Advisory Committee Members in attendance: Jeanne Astino, Jean Healey Dippold, Lee Jenkins, Mary McGoldrick, Rob Hillman, Fran Collins, Meg Wheeler, Helene Lieb.

Guests: Don Piatt, Heidi Salerno

CPC

Heidi Salerno explained background of King Street acquisition, its location, and spot in between conservation and town land.

Reviewed CPC recommendations.

- Historical Preservation, Paul Pratt for \$3,000. For book binding
- Open Space & Recreation, Cohasset High School Track, \$375,000.
- Community Housing, Affordable Housing Trust, \$500,00. Question as to what exactly this is for.
- Historical Preservation, Town Clock (in the church of the steeple), \$75,000. Fran Collins will inquire more.
- Open Space & Recreation, Cohasset Harbor Town Docks. \$40,000
- Open Space & Recreation, Cohasset Harbor Parker Avenue Ramp, \$385,000. Town received grant for the majority of engineering funds (\$170K). \$385,000 represents 20-25% match and available appropriation to seek grants for the remaining 70% of the cost. If we don't get the 70% grant, then the \$385K won't get tapped.
- Open Space & Recreation, CYBSA, ADA Improvements, \$100,000.
- Open Space & Recreation, Deer Hill Softball Field Restoration, \$19,000. They are coming back on this. Important to get the field back online. Postponed.
- Open Space & Recreation, Land Acquisition, \$450,000.
- Open Space & Recreation, Beechwood Basketball Court, \$58,000.
- Open Space & Recreation, Sohier Street Basketball Court, \$13,200.
- Open Space & Recreation, Miliken Field, \$15,000. Upgrade of the concession and snack shack.
- Open Space & Recreation, Second Preservation/Façade Congregation, \$50,000. CPC funding for churches. Lee Jenkins abstained from this one as a member of the Church. Helene Lieb noted some controversy with this, among other religions. Also, CPC had concerns around the specifics of how the money would be used.

Mary McGoldrick moved for Advisory Committee to recommend that Town Meeting approve the recommendations of the CPC as set forth in the document presented to the Advisory Committee on April 6, 2021 and noting postponed Deer Hill softball field. Helene Lieb seconded. All members voted aye, except Lee Jenkins abstained as to the Second Preservation Façade project.

Capital Budget Committee

Discussion of capital budget approvals (\$3.015 million). All awards are in cash, some projects were likely previously stuck due to the pandemic. Last year was considerably lower due to pandemic. Town is proposing to deposit another \$700K in the capital budget fund (largest by \$400 to 300K over the last five years). Discussion of cash versus debt, debt can help things smooth things out. At the end of next year, we'll still have a \$1 million in the fund, doing \$2 million appropriation as committed, have borrowing authorizations out there waiting for that debt to hit our books, so we're funding with cash this year so as not to add to free cash. We shoot to have 3 to 4% of our budget (or \$1.8; \$1.9 million) certified in free cash. That's AAA-rated communities. We have OPEB costs and are putting more money into that, we are squirreling away so as not to get into a negative sum game in the future. We have \$3 million sitting in capital stabilization fund, \$2 million hasn't been transferred in, but should still have a \$1 million sitting in the account at FY22.

To be determined about tapping capital budget for Town Hall – goal is to keep this within the big “B” budget. Assuming they get CPC money at a \$13.5 million, they are looking at \$450k for 30 years to fit into operational budget.

Note that we need to maintain things, and many items on the list are maintenance, and nothing seems frivolous

Discussed list of capital budget requests. Chris

- Described school capital requests.
 - Deer Hill air handler – this is a replacement of unit that is failing, building-wide. No covid dollars apply, covid dollars might apply. Engineering component. Covid money can be used for both. \$20K used out COVID/CARES act, to try to get MBSA grant. There could be savings.
 - Osgood sprinkler – fire safety.
 - Middle School HVAC – These are air handlers for middle and high school.
 - Door fobs upgraded security system.
 - Pilot technology – technology relating to smartboards
 - Turf replacement – question about whether foundational work/substructure was already done. (Brief discussion of wanting more lead up)
- Described Facilities requests:
 - 2021 RAM (Plow/Pick up) – plow capable – brief discussion.

- Described DPW requests.
 - Lee J. does not agree with the bucket truck.
 - Road replacement – on a schedule of road replacement.
- Described Police request - two new patrol hybrid SUVs per vehicle life schedule)
- Described Fire requests – discussed these requests with Silvia.
- Described Recreation requests - supplements to CPC amounts.

Jeanne Astino moved for Advisory Committee recommend to Town Meeting approve the capital improvement budget presented by the Capital Budget Committee. Helene Lieb seconded. All members voted aye, except Lee Jenkins and Fran Collins voted “nay” as to the bucket truck.

Discussion of schedule for Thursday.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Lee Jenkins, Second by Jeanne A., Fran Collins, Jean Healey Dippold, Lee Jenkins, Meg Wheeler, Helene Lieb, Mary McGoldrick, and Rob Hillman voted aye.

Adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

/s/ Jean M. Healey Dippold