

# Captitol Committee Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, December 28, 2021**

**Gala Meeting Room, 5:00 PM**

## **Members Present:**

Bill Keegan, Town Manager (Remote)  
Chris Gallagher, DPW Director (Representing the Water and Sewer Commission)  
Amy Berdos, School Superintendent  
Stephanie McGowan, Member of the Board of Selectmen  
Paul Ivanovskis, Member of the Advisory Committee (Remote)

## **Other Present:**

George Samia, Finance Director  
Bill Yukna, School Business Manager  
Mike Johns, Assistant Town Manager

**Meeting called to Order at 5:00 PM by Chairman, Bill Keegan**

## **Minutes:**

Approved minutes of November 24, Capital meeting - Approved 3 Yes 2 Abstain (PI.SM)

Approved minutes of JUNE 23, Capital meeting - Approved 3 Yes 2 Abstain (PI.SM)

Approved minutes of JUNE 30, Capital meeting - Approved 3 Yes 2 Abstain (PI.SM)

## **Discussion:**

Bill Keegan This Meeting is more about establishing a process moving forward rather than the standard meeting where capital projects are approved by vote. Potential projects include but are not limited to Taylor School, Community Center, Public Works Building, Fire Substation and any large non-building projects might include Roads, Dam's and Sidewalks.

Chris Gallagher Additional projects might include things such as Fleet Maintenance, Repairs to Sidewalks, School Field Improvements and Band Equipment.

Bill Yukna Another possible project that should be considered as some point is the expansion of the high school locker room that would include a changing area for visiting teams

Stephanie McGowen We should not forget the possibility of the turf field replacement.

Bill Keegan Displayed the most recent 5 year plan and discussed what was approved and what was put on hold due to the lack of funding. We should revisit the items that were put on hold. The Outstanding Bond schedule was analyzed for those bonds that are scheduled to expire between FY23 - FY26

George Samia Discussed the possibility of recapturing the bond fall off from debt exclusions to limit tax impacts to residents; rather than including additional debt service in the operating budget. The Committee talked about the possibility of beefing up the capital stabilization fund whenever our revenues would allow us.

Bill Yukna Bill yukna indicated that any planned renovations/expansions to the Taylor school project would be about 5 or 6 years away.

Chris Gallagher Inflation will hit DPW building construction. Feasibility study has increased from 30K to 50K. DEP may require car wash to remove salt from DPW vehicles. COVID diverted sidewalk money as a result of lost meals tax revenue. The same holds true with the Dam project where we received a 700K grant, but we will need to increase the revenue to offset the rising cost of inflation. We were hoping to add an additional 200k from Free Cash.

Bill Keegan OPEB and Pension obligations should fall off in the early 2030s. Freed up money could be redirected to capital projects.

George Samia Reiterated the use of capital stabilization fund and the recapturing of the debt exclusion bonds to allow the Town flexibility on big projects.

Chris Gallagher ADA sidewalk improvement plan exists for Foxborough's and that is used as priority tool to replace sidewalks as repairs become necessary.

Bill Keegan We need a similar process for rating and prioritizing sidewalks that will be used to prioritize sidewalk improvements.

Paul Ivanovskis Questioned what the process is for choosing sidewalk repairs.

Chris Gallagher There is a 3-Year pavement improvement plan that is created by an outside vendor.

Bill Yukna Suggested that the Capital Plan should be broken into two parts. Annual and Recurring capital projects (trucks, busses) and the larger building projects mentioned during the discussion. Values need to be created for each project.

Bill Keegan Police cars are already included in the operating budget.

Bill Yukna Buying school buses annually and having our own bus service is still cheaper than contracting out and has served the Town well during COVID.

Bill Keegan In addition to reviewing capital needs, revenue flow should also be reviewed as part of the process.

Bill Yukna Any new info on ARPA money?

Bill Keegan ARPA regulations still under review. Available funds could help pay for some projects such as Dams, Chillers, etc. Unfortunately this funding is a moving target as the situation seems to change weekly. We hope to have further guidance for the use of the funds before the March 5th meeting.

Citizen input Several citizens advocated for development of a new Community Center

Adjournment Meeting adjourned in 1 hour and 12 minutes. Motion to adjourn-CG, second AB, roll call vote and all members of the Committee voted in favor.

