

Capital Planning and Investment Committee

***** Final Minutes, Approved as Amended *****

June 4, 2020

Voting Members Present: SusanMary Redinger, Teresa Jardon, John Seeley, Nate Finch, Alice von Loesecke

Also Present: Lori Bolasevich, Marie Sobalvarro, Tim Bragan, Linda Dwight

Absent:

Meeting called to order at 2:00 pm by Chair John Seeley.

No public commentary was provided.

The minutes of the February 10, 2020 meeting were approved 4-0 on a roll call vote as submitted on motion by Ms. Redinger and second by Mr. Finch.

Chair Seeley asked Mr. Bragan to provide an update on the financial concerns that necessitated this meeting. They explained that the Select Board and Finance Committee budget working group requested we schedule this meeting to review the budget items in light of the precarious financial situation the town is now facing. Warrant items for town meeting, if there are any changes that can be deferred or that would not be funded. Specifically, if there were any excluded debt items, of which there are currently three: Repairing the Old Library Roof, the Hildreth House Addition, and the replacement of the School Ramp.

School Ramp Replacement – members discussed the \$230,000 additional cost for “extras” that included outside bathrooms, landscaping, and an external staircase. Dr. Dwight talked about the scope of the main project, that was noted on the prior NEASC accreditation as needing replaced; the schools will begin accreditation review in 2021. Members voted 5-0 to support the \$660,00 project for basic ramp replacement, to be funded from excluded debt. Members then voted 5-0 to reduce the \$230,000 additional items for ramp enhancements to \$20,000 to cover basic landscaping, on a motion by Ms. von Loesecke and second by Mr. Finch. By acclamation, the \$20,000 would be funded from the Capitalization Stabilization and Investment Fund.

Hildreth House Addition – following discussion, members changed their split position from 3-2 approve to 3-2 to not support.

Old Library Roof Replacement – members discussed the project, which they had previously recorded a mixed vote to not support. Based on discussion, the decision to not support this project will remain.

Members discussed the other projects that had been submitted for funding (projects to be funded from sources other than excluded debt). Following discussion, Ms. Redinger moved that Mr. Seeley, as chair, reach out to all departments and committees who requested funding to consider whether a delay of a year or more for funding would negatively impact their operations. Second was by Mr. Finch. Following discussion, the motion was amended by Ms. Redinger to have the chair reach out to the departments and committees to advise them to be prepared to discuss their project needs at town meeting and how a delay may impact their needs. Ms. von Loesecke seconded the amendment. Motion passed 5-0.

Ms. Redinger provided an update that while the school building project is on budget, it has been delayed. Move in date is scheduled for May 18, 2021. Health screening for construction workers will be suspended this coming week. Ms. Redinger has sent a letter to Governor Baker requesting diversion of funds to the Mass School Building Authority to assist with defraying COVID-related cost delays, which is allowed under the federal CARES act. However, Ms. Redinger does not believe that funding would cover actual expenses; she also noted that MSBA is not increasing funding for projects due to COVID-related expenses. She said she has submitted all COVID related expenses to the town administrator for future submission under the CARES act.

Mr. Seeley reported that Jennifer Finch, a member of the town's Finance Committee, submitted a report analyzing projects approved at recent town meetings, that still have a balance available. Mr. Seeley asked Dr. Dwight for an update on the school related projects:

- Cronin Lighting Project from FY19 for \$37,570, none of which had been spent
- Bromfield Bathroom Renovation for \$25,000
- Bromfield School Hot Water Tanks at \$28,000
- Upgrade Science Lab \$65,000 appropriated, only \$480 spent to date, with a sunset date a year away
- Cronin Phase 2 Upgrades for \$1000,000 – only \$54,000 has been spent; with a sunset date a year away.

Dr. Dwight explained that there have been several turnovers in the school's facilities director that manages these projects. She'll get back to us on the Cronin Lighting Project. She said that the Hot Water Tank situation was resolved through other means. The Bromfield Bathroom Renovation project has been completed and the remaining balance is to go back to the town. She said the Science Lab renovations have been completed. The remaining balance for that project should be reviewed to ensure it was correctly accounted for between Devens Account and Capital Stabilization Fund. The Cronin Phase 2 Upgrades are not yet complete. Mr. Seeley recommend that Dr. Dwight follow up with Ms. Bolsavich about closing out funding.

Next meeting will be in July, following town meeting.

Mr. Bragan provided a reminder for Board of Selectman Meeting on Tuesday night. He also reminded that town meeting is scheduled for June 20th in front of the Library at 10am.

Meeting adjourned at 3:04pm on motion by Ms. Redinger and a second by Ms. von Loesecke, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Jardon