**Capital Expenditures Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, April 9th, 2013, 4:30 PM**

**Dedham Town Hall – Lower Conference Room**

**Members Present:** John Heffernan, Michael Podolski, Amy Paxson, Peter Springer and Kenneth Bragg

**Members Absent:**

Mr. Heffernan called the meeting to order at 4:40 PM.

4:40 PM- Environmental Department Capital Requests-

Virginia LeClair, Environmental Coordinator, described the proposed rail trail project to the Committee. Ms. LeClair explained that she has been working with the Rails & Trails Conservancy in discussions relevant to this project. She explained how the town has been talking about the possibilities of converting this railway to a trail for years and this would be a first step in the process to develop a conceptual plan for the project. Ms. LeClair is requesting $10,000 for the development of the conceptual plan.

4:45 PM- Police Department Capital Requests-

Vehicle Replacement- Chief D’Entremont explained that the plan is to move the Prisoner Transport Van to Animal Control, and replace it with a new prison transport vehic**l**e. The department also needs to replace three cruisers. Chief D’Entremont explained that the vehicle they are requesting to replace these cruisers with would be the “Tahoe”. Ms. Paxson commented that the 2008 and 2009 cruisers to be replaced seem new, and asked why they already need to be replaced. Chief D’Entremont explained that this was because of the engine idling time of the vehicles with their 24-7 use during the first couple of years. He added that they will not be able to determine exactly which car is being replaced until the new cars are purchased since things may change between now and then and that they will start auctioning off the vehicles next year. Ms. Paxson asked why one of the cars looking to be replaced is not on the idling chart that the Chief provided. Chief D’Entremont explained that this was omitted in error and he will send the Committee the correct information. Mr. Keegan expressed concern about choosing a car that is not a Ford brand since he was aware of a good relationship the Town had with Ford. Chief D’Entremont explained that now that the Crown Victoria model is no longer available he is not aware of another Ford model that could be as reliable. There is also increased competition in the market. Ms. Paxson asked if the amount requested for the cruisers included all of the additional components needed in the vehicles. Chief D’Entremont confirmed this was correct.

Laptop Replacement- Chief D’Entremont explained that he would like to replace three laptop computers in cars (1 is from 2008, 2 are from 2009). The department has ten laptops, and they are a critical component. Mr. Heffernan asked what will happen to the old laptops. Chief D’Entremont replied that there is an online auction site.

Portable Radios- Chief D’Entremont also requested to purchase ten new portable radios. He explained that the Police Department currently has sixty good up-to-date models, but would like spares on hand for various reasons.

5:10 PM- Facilities Department Capital Requests-

Taissir Alani was present for Facilities requests and presented details of what the Facilities Department had done with capital funds over the last year.

Mr. Heffernan commented that he liked the approach of having a pool of money that the Facilities Department could use.

Old Avery Building boiler replacement- Mariellen Murphy explained that the town is obligated within its lease to fix the boiler if needed. She expects that they will wait to fix the boiler when they have to but the plan is to have the money appropriated. Mr. Keegan added that the boiler needs repair but they don’t know when it is going to need to be replaced. Within the contract they expect to get 50% back when they do replace the boiler. Mr. Heffernan asked if they would be better off replacing the boiler now instead of waiting for it break. Mr. Keegan explained that he was open to the idea of replacing it now since it is an old system he knows that it is not as efficient as a new system can be. Mr. Podolski asked why they were going from three boilers to two. Mr. Alani explained that the new models are more efficient, and they are planning to purchase a dual unit for gas/oil.

Ms. Paxson asked for more information on the Endicott security system. Mr. Alani explained that a camera has already been installed at the Endicott Estate but that they would also like to install a card access system.

Ms. Paxson also inquired about the proposed repairs to the Town Hall Finance area for $155,000. Mr. Keegan explained that this would be part of a reorganization of the space.

Facilities Vehicle- Mr. Alani explained that they are proposing to buy a small vehicle for the support staff.

Bobcat- $40,000-Mr. Alani explained that they are requesting a Bobcat for $40,000 as school was cancelled a couple of times because they were not able to clear the sidewalk of snow. Ms. Murphy asked where the machine would be stored. Mr. Alani responded that it would be stored at the High school in the Auto Shop. Heffernan and Ms. Paxson expressed concern about determining where the line is between DPW and Facilities for snow removal.

6:00 PM- School Facilities-

iPads- Don Langenhorst, Technology Director of Dedham Public Schools, explained that the schools currently have 1500 active desktops, 200 netbooks, and 200 iPads. The iPads are currently with the sophomore class, but since sophomore classes are blended with junior and senior classes, they are requesting iPads for juniors and seniors as well. A $100 annual technology fee is collected from all non free/reduced lunch families.

The schools have 1500 desktops, and they typically replace them every five years but in recent years they have been saving on replacing these Desktops. Mr. Langenhorst explained that two years from now the MCAST test will be replaced by online test called PARK assessment. The new test would need to be completed online. Ms. Paxson asked if they plan to keep the netbooks for the freshman. Mr. Langenhorst responded that they plan to keep them for at least another year, and then they may be able to find another use for them afterwards. Mr. Springer asked how many netbooks and iPads need to be replaced each year from loss or damage. Mr. Langenhorst responded that there has only been one stolen netbook, and those with damages were all able to be repaired in the Technology department with parts. The iPads have coverage since they are under warranty. Families are charged for anything above reasonable wear and tear. Mr. Heffernan asked how other towns are going to handle the new online testing requirement. Mr. Langenhorst responded that his guess is they are also using this as motivation to get where they need to get as well. Mr. Keegan asked about the impact on textbooks now that the schools are more technology based. Mr. Langenhorst explained the digital textbook and its annual subscription. Mr. Keegan mentioned that there has been some school of thought that learning from an iPad was not as effective as textbooks, and he asked for their thoughts on this. June Doe responded that kids don’t learn from textbooks, they learn from good teaching. They have spent time to focus on training staff to use these tools and change the way they teach. Ms. Murphy asked what would happen if they receive only half of the funding that they have requested. Mr. Langenhorst explained there would be inequity in the classroom with the seniors not having iPads and they would miss out on an entire year to have a more effective classroom.

Network Switching Infrastructure- Mr. Langenhorst explained that the current design is over twelve years old and the school now has over 3000 devices working on their network. He added that wireless is the real pressure point to support the one-to-one initiative at the high school and they are currently reaching capacity and beginning to have bottlenecks with the wireless. With the analytics they are at a one gigabit connection and would like to be at a three gigabit connection. Ms. Murphy asked why the Town and the School virtual network cannot share a server. Mr. Langenhorst responded that he believes this would not be a good idea as the capacity needs change every 3 years and the server for the town is built around town needs, while the server for school is built around the school’s needs. He further explained that the infrastructure needs for switching is completely different from server needs. Mr. Langenhorst did not think it would be practical to share the 10 gigabit server.

Mr. Keegan commented that the Town is not struggling with what the school needs, and they find the school’s needs to be compelling; it really comes down to what the Town can afford and what the most compelling needs are.

Accreditation/High School Main Lobby- June Doe explained that NEASC will be visiting in the fall, and they would like to renovate the high school’s main lobby. She described the current space as dark with a lot of unused space. The plan would be to bring it to the 21st century. Mr. Alani explained that they are looking for consistency in updates.

Door replacements- Ms. Paxson asked for more information on the request for door replacements. Mr. Alani explained that they would like to switch the wooden doors at Greenlodge, Oakdale and Riverdale to fiberglass doors. These changes will improve issues with pest control, and heat efficiency at the schools.

Mr. Springer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Bragg. **It was voted 5-0.**