**Capital Expenditures Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, February 10, 2014, 6:00 PM**

**Lower Conference Room**

**Members Present:** John Heffernan, Michael Podolski, Amy Paxson, Peter Springer and Susan Fay

Mr. Springer called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Mr. Heffernan joined the meeting remotely via telephone conference.

6:00 PM: Fire Department-

Chief William Spillane was present for the hearing. Chief Spillane explained the need to get a replacement schedule in place for the trucks. They would like to replace Engine 4. He explained that the truck is a 1999 and that American LaFrance closed its doors in the last few weeks which will make it difficult to get replacement parts or service. They are interested in using the Emergency One brands as it has a local base in Attleboro, MA which will make parts and service easier to manage.

Ms. Fay asked what the turnover time would be for the delivery of the truck. Chief Spillane responded that it would be approximately six months.

Chief Spillane explained that he also would like to replace the deputy’s vehicle with a vehicle similar to a Ford Expedition.

Mr. Heffernan asked for further clarification of the replacement schedule. Chief Spillane explained that he would like to replace the chief and deputy’s vehicles every 5 years and to pass those vehicles down the chain.

Chief Spillane explained that 50 scuba bottles are up for replacement this year, and he would like to maintain a staggered replacement plan following this year.

Russ Poole, Town Meeting Member Precinct 2, asked when bottles are emptied how are they refilled. Chief Spillane responded that they do everything in house.

Mr. Springer confirmed with Chief Spillane that there would not be a discount for purchasing more bottles at a time.

Chief Spillane explained that face masks are replaced on an as needed basis and the life expectancy of a face mask is 8-10 years. He is hoping to replace about 10 each year so that the replacements can be staggered.

Chief Spillane explained the need for foam to take the oxygen away from a fire, and how it is especially useful with car fires. He would like to keep 40-50 five gallon containers on hand at all times. Mr. Heffernan asked if this would be considered capital equipment or operating equipment. Mr. Howell responded that this is something that could go whether way depending on how it is described.

Chief Spillane explained that he is also requesting replacement of hoses, hydrant assist valves, fire nozzles and mobile radios.

6:45 PM: Police Department-

Chief D’Entremont was present for the hearing, along with another officer from his staff. They explained that they are considering purchasing Dodge Chargers. The new Dodge Charger kicks into all-wheel drive automatically in certain conditions as needed. This will be available in April 2014.

Ms. Paxson confirmed with Chief D’Entremont that they will be replacing four cruisers with Dodge Chargers.

Mr. Springer asked why they purchased the Chevy Tahoe last year if they did not like it. Chief D’Entremont explained that the Tahoe is still a great vehicle, but there are more options this year. He also explained the need to go through a “feeling out period” on any new vehicles.

Chief D’Entremont explained the reporting software they are requesting would be an addition to the website and allow residents the convenience of filing a police report online. He thinks it would be a good thing but feels that it is expensive. Ms. Paxson confirmed with Chief D’Entremont that the Police Department would take the responsibility to promote that this option is available once implemented.

There was also a request to trade in two Harley Davidson motorcycles to buy one new Harley Davidson. They are looking at an off-road community motorcycle that can access walking path.

7:45 PM: Engineering Department-

Jason Mammone was present for the hearing. He explained that they are requesting the replacement of two computer workstations. The current workstations are approximately six years old.

Mr. Mammone explained that a sidewalk is needed on Rustcraft Road from the Legacy Place entrance on Elm Street to the ballpark, and from Fox 25 to 100 Rustcraft Road. They are attempting to receive state funding for this sidewalk.

The engineering department plans to continue the Sewer/Infiltration project in the next fiscal year.

8:00 PM: Facilities-

Taissir Alani was present and presented updates on the capital projects which were completed in the last fiscal year.

The facilities department requests included but were not limited to:

* $20,000 for a re-commissioning and engineering evaluation
* Exterior doors at the High School and at Greenlodge School
* Revamp of the High School Foyer.
* $50,000 for repairs to the High School cafeteria
* Replacement of Ceiling Tiles
* $50,000 for Interior painting
* $50,000 for repairs to the Dedham Middle School driveway.
* Cooling for DHS Data Center
* $50,000 for the DHS Tennis Courts repair and resurfacing

Chris Howell explained he has visited all of the buildings in town now and recommends that the committee visit the buildings in Town as well. Mr. Howell provided a facilities capital program overview and explained the importance in the long term of keeping on top of maintenance of the buildings. Mr. Howell explained that the average cost of bringing municipal buildings to a maintenance level would be $1 per square foot, but since the Town has not been maintaining, the cost would be $1.50 per square foot. He explained that Taissir is requesting $600K, which the Town cannot afford, but if the Facilities Department were to get $340,000 he thinks that would be a huge success.

Mr. Heffernan commented that the he agreed that the money would not need to be specifically allocated to individual projects.

Mr. Howell explained some different approaches of classifications such as discipline-based like “Structural Repairs & Renovations”. Mr. Howell asked the opinion of the Committee of whether they thought a classification like this was something they and town meeting would be satisfied with.

Ms. Paxson explained that this classification should be slightly more specific, and she thinks they should specify which building money will be spent at as well. She preferred a hybrid between the two examples that Mr. Howell provided.

Mr. Springer commented that he remembers when there was a half hour discussion about the Town Administrator wanting to renovate his office, so he thinks Town Meeting members will want to know specifics on any renovations that are being requested.

Mr. Podolski commented that they need to step back and consider the tax-payers and how they would appreciate specifics on how their money is being spent.

The Committee agreed on the level of detail that they would find acceptable, and they all agreed that if Mr. Alani were to save money on a project that he could use that money on other improvements to the same building. There was a discussion on how to adjust the wording so that this kind of thing would be possible without having to come back in front of the CEC. The money should be spent on the highest priority.

Mr. Heffernan added that they could provide more detail at the back of the book.

Ms. Paxson asked if the concern of the Committee was really just that someone would use the money to redecorate their office.

Russ Poole explained that he thinks what Mr. Howell proposed was a good idea, and he would vote for it. He added that his peers do not attend the meetings, and due to skepticism of Town Meeting members, he suggests adding a bit more detail. Mr. Pool did agree that the appendix including greater detail in the back of the book would be acceptable.

Mr. Podolski commented that they should provide definitions, such as what they consider to be a renovation, in the back of the book then they can work within that discipline. Mr. Podolski suggested that Mr. Alani make a similar presentation at Town Meeting.

Mr. Howell commented that he appreciates the Committees feedback.

Mr. Poole asked if Capital requests from the school were paid for by the school. Mr. Podolski explained capital comes under the Town.

Mr. Podolski made a motion to adjourn at 9:20 PM, seconded by Ms. Paxson. **It was voted 5-0.**