**Capital Expenditures Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, January 12, 2015, 6:30 PM**

**Lower Conference Room, Dedham Town Hall**

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

Mr. Springer called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

**Public Comment Period-** No comments were made.

**FY16-20 Capital Budget Hearings**

Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation Director, Robert Stanley, was present for the hearing.

He explained that the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was approved at the last Town Meeting, and the department has also been working with the School Department for the Parks and Recreation Department to do more work at the school fields. Mr. Stanley explained that the lighting system at Memorial Field has worked out even better than he thought it would, so the first item his is requesting is to also address the lighting at Condon and Rustcraft. With this new system they have a lot more control over who is on the fields.

Mr. Podolski asked how often Condon Park gets used as he was not aware there even were lights. Mr. Stanley explained that about 90 percent of the time it is used for girls’ softball, and the rest of the time it is used for Dedham Youth Softball. Mr. Podolski confirmed with Mr. Stanley what makes up the $23,000 figure. Mr. Stanley explained that Rustcraft is cheaper than Condon.

Mr. Stanley also described a request to replace a retaining wall at Rustcraft Park. He explained that it is about four feet high, and borders the soccer field. The existing retaining wall is collapsing, but it is not necessarily a safety concern. He has been talking to the Engineering Department about replacing the wall with a new stone retaining wall, and they would try to do as much work as possible in house with Town staff.

Mr. Heffernan asked why trees would need to come down. Mr. Stanley responded that they would like to create a grassy knoll area to watch the games from.

Ms. Fay asked why they don’t want people to enter at the parking area, but they want to put a viewing area there. She also asked how tall the chain link fence is. Mr. Stanley explained that he is not sure yet of that detail. Mr. Stanley confirmed that the greatest benefit of this project is aesthetics.

Mr. Podolski explained that he wants more specific details, including a breakdown of the materials that make up the figures. Mr. Stanley agreed to send this information to the Committee.

Ms. Paxson commented that it would be helpful to see a sketch of what this would look like when it is done. Ms. Paxson felt the ability to view needed to be more thought out before she is comfortable recommending this project.

Mr. Stanley explained his request for a dump truck which he described would be needed to get daily operations done.

Mr. Heffernan asked what would be needed more, the dump truck or the wall? Mr. Stanley responded that the dump truck is what he personally needs more. The wall is the request of Commissioners; he is not sure how comfortable he is making the change before the master plan is done.

Mr. Stanley explained that he was told to bundle all of the projects together that were under $10,000. Mr. Heffernan commented that they will need to take a look at what was bundled to see if they want to call it Capital.

Ms. Fay asked about the need for the slice feeder. Mr. Stanley responded that it allows for more effective seeding.

Mr. Podolski asked how old the field is that needs repairs. Mr. Stanley responded that it is five or six years old and has a hole in the pitcher’s mound that needs to be repaired. Mr. Podolski confirmed with Mr. Stanley that there is not a warranty in place that will cover this.

Mr. Stanley explained that he would like to wait another year to replace the riding mower.

Mr. Stanley explained that they are still working on the security system at Memorial field, and in another year plans to request Condon and Rustcraft; he would like to keep this on the radar.

7:10 PM- School Technology

Don Langenhorst was present from the School’s Technology Department.

Mr. Langenhorst explained that the Schools are also participating in the technology study and are awaiting the results of that study. He is confident that the requests in front of Committee will be supported by the study, but he has yet to see the report.

Mr. Langenhorst explained that computer replacements are done on a 5 year schedule. They are on the 4th year of 1:1 program, and are collecting a $100 technology fee from parents (but not free or reduced lunch) and the cost is $500 each.

Mr. Langenhorst brought Chrome books to the meeting and explained that at $360 each they include all necessary items and insurance. There is also a $75 technology fee for the Chrome books. They started using Chrome books in Westwood and although there was a lot of breakage, there is no cost to get them repaired with the insurance. The staff at the middle school is piloting 60 chrome books currently.

Ms. Paxson confirmed with Mr. Langenhorst that the net books have outlasted their useful life and are no longer being assigned to students; they are ready for donation. Ms. Paxson questioned the estimated useful life of iPads. Mr. Langenhorst responded that once they stop selling there is a point where they are out of service. There is approximately a four year lifespan, but they are not completely un-useful after that. They could be passed down to younger kids.

Ms. Fay confirmed with Mr. Langenhorst that children will be taking the Chromebooks home will and will be responsible for bringing them back charged.

Mr. Heffernan asked why they plan to purchase them all at once instead of phasing them in one grade at time as they had done with the iPads. Mr. Langenhorst responded that they found the “phase in” approach to be less effective.

Mr. Langenhorst explained that most towns do not have a 1:1 program, so Dedham is fortunate and ahead of the game. It is apparent to him that the Chromebook is what is being used in schools today. They plan to hold workshops and train the teachers how to properly use the devices so that they are more comfortable.

Ms. Paxson commented that there are a lot of books in her son’s backpack and confirmed with Mr. Langenhorst that e-books can be accessed from this device. Mr. Langenhorst explained that the goal is to get as much digital curriculum and textbooks as possible.

Mr. Podolski asked who is responsible to collect the $100 fee. Mr. Langenhorst confirmed that technology is and it is not the teachers’ responsibility.

Mr. Springer confirmed with Mr. Langenhorst that seniors return their iPads and they may be repurposed for younger children at the elementary level to use.

Michael Welch commented that the Chromebook is better for creation than the iPod is.

7:48 PM- Mr. Langenhorst explained a request to replace the sound/announcement system for all schools, which is housed at the middle school, to one that would allow video. The cost includes encoders. Video on demand will be available, and they will be able to remotely upload and download as needed. Mr. Langenhorst explained that the classroom environment has evolved and a lot more video content being used in the classroom.

Mr. Welch commented that he doesn’t want to underestimate the linkage with Dedham Cable; it would be seamless.

Ms. Paxson asked what kind of video content is being created. Mr. Langenhorst explained that they will have the capability to do such things as cataloguing teacher lessons and students can have access to the lesson after the fact to review or if they were out sick.

Mr. Podolski asked Mr. Langenhorst to send the breakdown of the $140,000 to the Committee.

Mr. Langenhorst explained that it is difficult to get the video to work through Dropbox or a Google drive as they are not designed for video.

Mr. Langenhorst described his projections for next 4 years, including the replacement of the virtual server infrastructure, and a disaster recovery system the following year.

**8:10 PM- School Facilities**-

Denise Moroney, Director of Facilities, was present.

Ms. Moroney explained to the Committee what was received last year versus what was spent. She described status updates on FY15 Capital School projects, with pictures.

Ms. Fay asked if they plan to address the tennis courts as it is embarrassing as it is now, especially when entering the courts. Ms. Moroney explained the money approved in the past was only for resurfacing. Mr. Rippin explained that they only used the money that was approved as it was intended to be used.

Ms. Moroney described the need for privacy in the high school Guidance office, and the request is to build four full wall height offices. The Youth Commission will be going to the Nurse’s space.

Ms. Moroney described a transformer that needed to be replaced, and that NStar will pay half. She would like to move it to the front in order to save parking spaces. Mr. Podolski asked if it would still cost more to rewire by moving it to the front of the building. Ms. Moroney explained that she was trying to be creative in order to save parking spaces.

For the bathroom project, Ms. Paxson commented that the bathrooms are disgusting and need to be addressed. Ms. Moroney explained that she would like to request money each year to fix this. Mr. Podolski expressed concern about putting money into the ECEC at this time.

Ms. Moroney requested $50,000 for the shade replacement program. .

There was a request for asbestos tile abatement. Mr. Heffernan asked if abatement always means removal. Ms. Moroney confirmed that it does. Mr. Rippin commented that doing this work will also make it look more inviting, and brighten it up.Ms. Fay asked if the asbestos abatement could really be done in FY 16. Ms. Moroney confirmed that it would need to go out to bid. Ms. Fay confirmed that Ms. Moroney that the schools are liable to inspect for asbestos, not to abate.

Mr. Heffernan commented that with regards to the $150,000 requested for the recommissioning, he would like them to consider getting the information together for the fall. Mr. Rippin responded that hopefully they can get a specific number before Town Meeting.

Town Facilities-

Ms. Moroney reviewed previously approved projects that were completed and those that are still in process.

The dump truck needs to be replaced. It is 30 years old, they are requesting $60,900 but it will actually be about $7,500 less. There is also a 1988 Ford F150 that they would like to replace.

Ms. Moroney explained they are requesting funding for a storage building which will be used to house a reserve ladder truck from the Fire Department, as well as the bucket truck. The location for this building is still to be determined, possibly behind the East Dedham Fire station.

Chief William Spillane explained that he will not be able to wait until they have a new Fire Station to replace the ladder truck, and the reserve truck will need a home.

Mr. Podolski agreed that it is a waste of money to have the bucket truck stored outside.

Ms. Moroney also reviewed the following town facility requests: East Dedham Fire House new flooring, pool interior renovations, Youth Commission build out, Dolan Center balconies, Endicott Estate porch repairs, Endicott Roof repair, Endicott Exterior lighting, Endicott Library Parking lot and concrete sidewalk, Main and Endicott Library security and access, Main and Endicott Library interior painting and the Police Department interior painting.

Ms. Paxson made a motion to adjourn at 10:15 PM, seconded by Mr. Heffernan, UA.