**Capital Expenditures Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, March 18, 2015, 6:15 PM**

**Lower Conference Room, Dedham Town Hall**

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

Mr. Springer called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

Public Comment Period-

Jim Maher was present and commented regarding his support of the Sprague Street Safety Project, formerly known as the Gateway to the Manor.

Marianne Martin was present and commented on her opposition to the Sprague Street Safety Project.

**Deliberation and Voting on FY16 Capital Requests**

Mr. Kern presented his list of recommendations to the Committee. He explained that CEC’s list lined up with his list with a couple of exceptions. He thinks the CEC can continue to make adjustments to the rating system to get it to where they would like it to be, but the system worked reasonably well for the first shot at it; it was helpful.

Mr. Kern reviewed items that were not being recommended including: Violet Avenue, The Greenway, a mower, and the Rustcraft retaining wall. He may circle back and reevaluate the retaining wall but he does not believe it is a safety issue. He would also like to recommend funding the requests for the Village Cemetery and the Brookdale Cemetery at $25,000 total, instead of the $25,000 each that was requested.

Mr. Kern addressed the IT Items he thought were most critical to consider including this year including school cameras for $35,000. He also discussed the need for emergency preparation set up and a technology cart including a set of instructions and hardware to be stored at the Town Hall. The cart would cost about $8,500. Mr. Heffernan commented that procedures have been updated in the last year information is available on the NEMA website. He would also like to recommend creating a Core Network Redundancy for $11,000. Mr. Ralph explained that if switches were to fail, it would be a backup to prevent loss.

Mr. Kern explained that next year would be a bigger capital year for IT requests.

Mr. Kern commented that he thinks the IT consultant will be making a presentation on findings in the future.

Mr. Kern explained that he would like to recommend leasing to own the Scott Air Packs which are on warrantee for 15 years. Mr. Podolski confirmed with Mr. Kern this would cover the department. (40 packs, 60 masks)

Mr. Heffernan made a motion to recommend $1,514,000 for Engineering, seconded by Ms. Paxson. **It was voted 5-0.**

Mr. Heffernan made a motion to recommend the sum of $326,250 for Facilities Town Buildings, seconded by Ms. Paxson. **It was voted 5-0.**

Mr. Heffernan made a motion to recommend the sum of $925,000 for Facilities School Buildings, seconded by Ms. Paxson. **It was voted 5-0.**

Mr. Heffernan made a motion to recommend the sum of $283,430 for the Fire Department, seconded by Ms. Paxson. **It was voted 5-0.**

Mr. Heffernan made a motion to recommend the sum of $66,000 for Information Technology, seconded by Ms. Paxson. **It was voted 5-0.**

Mr. Heffernan made a motion to recommend the sum of $142,460 for Parks and Recreation, seconded by Ms. Paxson. **It was voted 5-0.**

Mr. Heffernan made a motion to recommend the sum of $185,109 for the Police Department, seconded by Ms. Paxson. **It was voted 5-0.**

Mr. Heffernan made a motion to reconsider the motion taken on recommending the IT requests, seconded by Ms. Paxson. **It was voted 5-0.**

Mr. Heffernan made a motion to recommend the sum of $66,833 for Information Technology, seconded by Ms. Paxson. **It was voted 5-0.**

Mr. Podolski commented that they should make sure the Police Department is aware that funds they requested are in the IT capital.

Mr. Heffernan made a motion to recommend the sum of $74,314 for the Town Clerk, seconded by Ms. Paxson. **It was voted 5-0.**

Mr. Heffernan made a motion to recommend the sum of $326,060 for the School Department, seconded by Ms. Paxson. *Discussion*: Mr. Podolski explained that he is opposed to the Chromebook request; he did not feel it was an appropriate purchase considering that they were buying equipment of which they would need to hire someone new to show them how to use it. He felt it was just a way to increase personnel. **It was voted 4-1.** (Mr. Podolski was opposed)

Mr. Kern explained that the amount of money approved in school budget is in the aggregate; they decide what’s in, and they can decide how they spend the money that is approved.

Mr. Podolski explained that he understands it is out of his purview, but the School Department hired their own Human Resource Manager using their own money this year.

Public Works-

Mr. Kern explained that through an oversight he had failed to communicate to Peter in a timely manner that he had included the Gateway to the Manor in the Capital Plan recommendations. Initially, he was holding out with the idea that more time would benefit the process. Mr. Heffernan and Mr. Springer expressed concerned that the CEC never had a presentation on the project.

Mr. Mammone offered to go through the details of the Gateway to the Manor/ Sprague Street Safety project. Mr. Mammone presented a concept plan for the project. He explained that they would redo 700 feet of Sprague Street, and provide the proper delineation for getting in and out of Hooper Road. A five space parking area will be provided off the street. Mr. Podolski asked Mr. Mammone if he thinks he needs to come in front of Planning Board for the parking. Mr. Podolski expressed concern that it would take away all of the parking from in front of the bar.

Mr. Podolski asked for more information on what has been the issue at this intersection and how this will resolve the issue. Mr. Mammone responded that over a period of 10 years, there were 24 accidents, and there is information on 14 of them describing how the accident took place. There were 11 segmented crashes (half related to inclement weather) and the 3 other were intersection crashes on or off from Hooper Road. There is an excessive speeding problem on Sprague Street, so they hope that this will slow the traffic some. Mr. Mammone explained that he does not think it will improve safety on Sprague Street as there would still be a problem with the hill and inclement weather. None of the crash data included pedestrian or cyclists.

Mr. Springer confirmed with Mr. Mammone that Louise and Hooper Roads both have stop signs.

An abutter named Marianne commented that the Town should spend their safety dollars in front of Terry’s as people pull u-turns there. She described some of the history of the neighborhood association from her perspective. She explained that she doesn’t want to punish the Blue Jay shop and this started as a punishment to them about 15 years ago. She reminded everyone that George from Blue Jay is not in favor of this project which is being pushed by the neighborhood association which, if you go to their meetings, there are 5 to 7 people and not everyone is from the manor.

Mr. Heffernan commented that he thinks there is merit in doing something down there; it sounds like there is still a possibility for a win-win.

When explaining what changed to cause him to go from not recommending to recommending this project, Mr. Kern explained that he is continuing the process of understanding this project. This would not conflict with the present Manor Fields plan, but if the plan gets changed it could. At some point he got the sense that there was really not any use in starting over and reevaluating the whole thing considering that Mr. Mammone and Mr. Flanagan do not believe they are likely to get a better plan. Mr. Kern explained that he put it on to be funded and would like to talk to the actual neighborhood so that it is being funded but they can also make sure the neighborhood knows what is coming.

Ms. Paxson commented that she feels like as representing an organization for making fiscally responsible decisions when she hears that this may marginally help a safety issue, and may help or hurt quality of life she feels fiscally irresponsible to spend money on it. Mr. Kern does not know that they can say to this project that they don’t see the benefit when they plan to fund the Rustcraft Road sidewalks.

Mr. Podolski asked if they plan to have a meeting before town meeting with the neighborhood. Mr. Kern responded that it would not before town meeting, but it would be prior to the start of the project if it gets approved.

Mr. Kern explained that he plans to tell the neighborhood what is happening so they understand what the project is, not to ask them. He does not plan to make changes. The outcome of the meetings would not lead to reengineering, rather, only small differences that Mr. Mammone may be able to make. Mr. Kern confirmed with Mr. Mammone that this has been an ongoing study since 2001.

Ms. Fay commented that she had attended a meeting to learn about the Gateway to the Manor, and it was a well-attended public meeting. She has no memory of opposition to the project at that meeting.

8:00 PM: Mr. Heffernan made a motion to recommend the sum of $3,578,000 for the Public Works, seconded by Ms. Paxson. Discussion: Mr. Heffernan explained that he would like to know there is a little bit more they can do to it to make it better; he is not sure he agrees this is the best they can do. A person could lose their business as a result of this project and that would be horrible. If he knew the business was not going to be hurt he would probably feel much better. There are still a number of other issues that need to be addressed.

Mr. Springer commented that he is still concerned about outside Terry’s and why that is not being addressed.

Ms. Fay commented that she will vote in favor. This has been on the table since 2001, and they have not heard anything from this business that could potentially be out of business. She explained that unintended consequences are hard to predict, while she does not wish this business ill, she thinks this project is beneficial. She is sad that Jim Maher is not here at this moment, since his point of view is not being considered during these critical moments.

Mr. Heffernan commented that he will make sure that Mr. Maher is aware when they discuss this at FinCom. If this comes down to a mixed vote he expects a discussion with FinCom.

**It was voted 2-3.** (Mr. Podolski and Ms. Fay voted in favor).

Mr. Heffernan made a motion to recommend the sum of $3,028,000 for Public Works, seconded by Ms. Paxson. **It was voted 3-2.** (Mr. Podolski and Ms. Fay were opposed).

Engineering: Jason Mammone confirmed that if they approve Phase 2, they do not need to fund Phase 1 for the dam.

Mr. Heffernan made motion to reconsider the previous motion recommendation made for Engineering, seconded by Ms. Paxson. **It was voted 5-0.**

Mr. Heffernan made a motion to recommend the sum of $1,499,000 for Engineering, seconded by Ms. Paxson. **It was voted 5-0.**

Mr. Podolski made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 PM, seconded by Mr. Heffernan, UA.