

Call to Order

Chair Barry called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and initiated roll call. Through video conferencing mode, present were Chairperson John Barry-Y, Yican Cao-Y, Paul Colby-Clements-Y, Mary Ellen Logee-Y, Paul MacKay-Y, Paul Monticciolo-Y, Kevin O'Handley-Y, Ken Russo-Y and Paul Russo-Y. Also present were Assistant Town Manager, Patrick Lawlor, Finance Director, Donna Walsh, Paul Materazzo, Director of Planning, Dr. Magda Parvey, Superintendent of Schools, Susan McCready, School Committee Chairperson and Shannon Scully, School Committee member. The meeting was recorded by Andover TV.

Community Development and Planning CIP Presentation/discussion

Director of Planning, Paul Materazzo spoke to the Committee about Community Development and Planning's FY2023 Capital Improvement Plan requests

The following were discussed:

- a) **CDP-7** Conservation Land Management. Total Request is \$15,000. These funds are used for maintenance and upkeep of conservation land and trails. Historically this is a yearly request for the same amount of money. There may be a need for additional funding in the future. There is approximately 2,000 acres of land to manage. The funding request is driven by ideas and programs. The land/trails have been getting a lot more usage since the beginning of COVID and we are looking to expand that.
- b) **CDP-8** Review of Andover Wetlands Protection Bylaw. Total Request is \$20,000. The Bylaw was adopted in 1999 and needs to be updated. What will be included in this review and why \$20,000? The Town will hire an environment firm to look at requirements set forth by Department of Environmental Protection and the State to modernize the Wetland Bylaw. There are scientists and engineers that would participate. Some of the efficiencies include permitting and more clearly defining the application process and materials needed.
- c) **CDP-1** Active Transportation Master Plan request for \$50,000 was not funded. Why and is that going to be a problem? The Old Town Hall parking lots are being reconstructed this year and there is water work going on in the area as well. CD&P continues to work with The Town Manager's office and DPW on the Complete Streets project and there are grants that the Town can apply for and get funding from MA DOT.

School Budget Presentation and Recommendation

Dr. Magda Parvey, Superintendent of Schools, Susan McCready, School Committee Chairperson and Shannon Scully, School Committee member gave the Finance Committee a presentation of the FY2023 School Budget (See Attached presentation)

The following discussion points/questions arose:

- a) The FY2023 School Budget stays below Town Manager recommendation (3.68% versus 3.75% increase)

- b) State Aid continues to be the state minimum increase which is \$30 per student.
- c) Out of District tuition has seen a significant decrease which is subject to change based on needs of students.
- d) ESSER funds will be used for additions to special education and social-emotional learning supports
- e) Highlights are that the budgets for student activities increases including requests from athletics and fine arts to assume expenses traditionally carried by parent/booster organizations, reduces bus fees, and continues to move full-day kindergarten expenses into operating budget.

Other

At what point does the Finance Committee start taking a vote to support the budget? When warrant articles are published that is when the committee starts taking votes on items. There will be lots of discussion over the next few months.

Budget books will be ready early next week. Warrant is scheduled to be signed on March 14th. Town Meeting will be held on June 11th. The Committee can start voting on preliminary warrant article numbers that is acceptable.

Town Department Budget meeting with Select Board and Finance Committee will be held on Saturday, March 5th

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022

Liaison Updates

Paul Russo – Retirement Board met on 1/27/22 and they don't meet again until mid-February. At the last meeting they voted to put the next 1/10 of the Pension Obligation money into their current asset allocation. They are waiting for further recommendations from the Investment Committee.

Kevin O'Handley – No new updates

Mary Ellen Logee – No New updates. High School Facilities Committee is meeting next week and will update at the next meeting

Paula Colby Clements – No new updates

Paul Monticciolo – Open Space Task Force is meeting tomorrow

Yican Cao – Director of IT, Paul Puzanghera will possibly be attending the next meeting to present his FY2023 CIP requests

Ken Russo – No updates

Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Paul Monticciolo and seconded by Paula Colby Clements, it was voted to adjourn. John Barry-Y, Paula Colby-Clements-Y, Yican Cao-Y, Mary Ellen Logee-Y, Paul MacKay-Y, Paul Monticciolo-Y, Kevin O’Handley-Y, Ken Russo-Y, Paul Russo-Y. Motion Passed 9-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Salvi

Recording Secretary