

Approved: January 24, 2022

**Select Board Meeting: January 7, 2022**

**Present: Ulfelder, Olney, Sullivan Woods, Aufranc, Lanza**

**Also Present: Jop, Frigulietti, Strother, Dwinell, Moreau**

**Warrants approved:**

**Meeting Documents:**

1. Agenda

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Ulfelder, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am online.

Mr. Ulfelder announced the meeting was being streamed live on Comcast channel 8 and Verizon channel 40 and by Wellesley Media and recorded for subsequent viewing on the cable channels or at [wellesleymedia.org](http://wellesleymedia.org).

**2. Citizen Speak**

None.

**3. Discuss Select Board Budget Submittals**

**4. Facilities Management Department - Capital**

Mr. McDonough, FMD Director, joined the meeting.

Ms. Jop stated that staff was proposing several projects be considered for funding through free cash including the ECM High School Lighting, the Police Radio Antenna Project, and the Middle School Paving Project. She reviewed the ECM High School Lighting project background noting that it had been on the capital plan for several years. Ms. Jop stated that should the Board wish to consider the funding the ECM High School Lighting project using free cash, a request would be made to PBC to waive project oversight; she noted that PBC manages town projects of \$500,000 or more and has the option to waive this responsibility. She added that the Central Street Fire Station roof and envelope project which was estimated to cost \$600,000 was listed in the capital budget; she suggested that it could be considered for either free cash or borrowing. Ms. Jop provided an overview of the joint project with DPW and FMD for the Middle School paving, noting that it had been deferred for various reasons in the capital plan and had increased in scope and costs over time. She added that staff also proposed consideration of funding this project through use of free cash. The Board reviewed and discussed the FMD capital requests and the funding options and strategies for proposed projects in the capital plan. The Board expressed general agreement for the proposed use of free cash for the Middle School paving project, the Police radio antenna project, and the High School ECM project.

**5. Youth Commission and Recreation Commission – Capital (van)**

Mr. Chin, Recreation Commission Director joined the meeting.

Ms. Jop reviewed the combined request from the Youth Commission, Recreation Commission, and Health Department for the purchase of two 12 passenger vans. Mr. Chin provided an overview of the use of the vans for each department, noting the costs accumulated throughout the year of renting vans for the various uses. The Board discussed the request and additional options that may be available to the offices

for transportation. The Board expressed general support for the program although provided options for delaying purchase for a year to provide for finding alternative funding including the use of the Uber/Lyft funds for this year.

## **6. Traffic and Parking Budget**

Chief Pilecki and Lieutenant Showstead joined the meeting.

Ms. Jop reviewed the traffic and parking budget as submitted, she noted that the capital request had been reduced from the original submission. She added that a funding from free cash had been anticipated to offset the loss in typical parking revenues given the impact of the pandemic and reduced commuter lot usage. Ms. Jop stated that the budget included revenues of \$200,000 from meters and lot fees as well as \$200,000 of turn back. She noted the Board had discussed at the last meeting the concept of moving the traffic and parking salary staff costs to the general Police Department budget. Lt. Showstead stated that he believed the department would have turn back from the current fiscal year. He briefly reviewed the capital projects included in the budget, noting that the department would not fill the open attendant position for at least one year. The Board discussed the traffic and parking budget and revenue expectations. The Board agreed to retain staffing costs in the traffic and parking budget for this year and revisit it during a future budget year when there is time to do the full analysis.

## **7. Select Board – Over Guideline Budgets**

Ms. Martello, Sustainability Director, joined the meeting. She reviewed the Climate Action Committee budget request noting the significant budget impact of upgrading a part time position to full time and revising a \$50,000 capital expense to an operating expense. She provided an overview of the recent Town Meeting actions and state goals that impacted the work of the Climate Action Committee. Ms. Martello reviewed sustainability staffing levels and budgets of other communities, noting that many communities were including significant community engagement within their sustainability departments. She discussed in more detail the specific expense changes within the budget request and the need for community engagement as well as additional resources available to the department. Ms. Strother stated that there was no subsidy from MLP included in the budget as funding from MLP remained unclear. Ms. Jop stated that MLP contributions were expected, although additional clarification was needed to determine the amounts. Ms. Jop stated that, should the Board support adding the \$50,000 to the operating budget, it could be indicated within the town -wide financial plan and the budget that the funding was intended to be for a pilot program which would be reevaluated annually. The Board discussed the proposed changes within the Climate Action Committee budget as well as the budget allocation for green power. Although the Board was supportive, there was agreement to continue evaluating the budget plan.

## **8. New Business & Correspondence**

Ms. Jop noted items for further budget discussions at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm

The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2022 at 6:00 pm.