

**Capital Improvements Committee Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, March 24, 2025, at 5:00 pm**  
**Bellingham Municipal Center**  
**Arcand Meeting Room**

Capital Improvements Committee Members Present: R. Lavallee (Chairman), J. Collamati (Vice-Chairman), J. Kuzmeskas

Capital Improvements Committee Members Absent: M. Hennessey

Meeting Commenced: R. Lavallee called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

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J. Collamati made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 29, 2024, Capital Improvements Committee Meeting, as submitted. Motion seconded by J. Kuzmeskas. Approved 3/0.

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**Public Hearing:** Chief Miller and Deputy Provost from the Fire Department were present to discuss the FY26 Capital Request, as follows:

**A-1 Ambulance Replacement:**

Chief Miller provided information regarding the request to secure funding for the purchase of an A-1 Ambulance replacement. This request is for a stock ambulance with a 24-30 month build time. Without proper planning and ordering, the department will be operating an emergency vehicle with over 100,000 miles on it, and the potential for not having a primary ambulance due to the lengthy build times.

**J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$503,000 for the replacement of Ambulance A-1.**

**J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 3/0.**

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**Public Hearing:** Chief Fitzgerald and Lieutenant Daigle from the Police Department were present to discuss the FY26 Capital Requests, as follows:

**Car Replacement:**

Chief Fitzgerald provided information on the request of replacing 2 marked, and 1 unmarked vehicle. The marked cars will move to the Detail fleet, and the existing Detail cars with over 100,000 miles will be repurposed or disposed of. The current unmarked car will be kept as a spare.

**J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend \$203,000 for the purchase of 3 replacement cars.**

**J. Collamati seconded. Recommended 3/0.**

**Dispatch Console:**

A joint request for the Police & Fire dispatch console replacement was presented to members for review. The existing system is no longer maintained by Motorola, and parts are no longer available, due to the age of the system.

**J. Collamati made a motion to recommend a Dispatch Console Radio Replacement, in the amount of \$200,000. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 3/0.**

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**Public Hearing:** DPW Director, Jesse Riedle, and Assistant Director, Sean Harrington, were present to discuss the Department's Capital Requests, as follows:

**Green Acres Flood Study:**

The Green Acres neighborhood routinely experiences storm drainage flooding. This request is for a watershed-level flood study of the Arnold Brook watershed, within the neighborhood from Gail Drive, heading south, to Pulaski Boulevard. The neighborhood has experienced extreme flooding in the lower half of the neighborhood for several years and has adversely affected abutting residents.

**J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$77,000 for the Green Acres Flood Study. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 3/0.**

**Wrentham Road Culvert Replacement Study (Phase I of II):**

Phase I of II for Engineering Services for replacement of the Wrentham Road culvert. A Grant application for engineering services has been submitted. If successful, the Grant may cover up to \$100k of the effort. Results are expected in April/May 2025.

**J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$137,105 for Phase I of II of the Wrentham Road Culvert Replacement Study. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 3/0.**

**Wrentham Road Culvert Replacement Construction (Phase II of II):**

Phase II of II would require funding for the Wrentham Road culvert replacement construction.

**J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend \$500,000 for Phase II of II of the Wrentham Road Culvert Replacement Construction. J. Collamati seconded. Recommended 3/0.**

**Lakeshore Drive Water Main Replacement Design:**

Phase I of II for this project is for the design & engineering services for the Water Main replacement on Lakeshore Drive. The existing water main has a history of breaks, extensive repairs, and interruptions to water service. Lakeshore Drive is on the Road Committee's list of streets to be paved. An ongoing drainage design is underway to address stormwater runoff issues. This effort would be ahead of a future paving request.

**J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$152,000 for the Water Main Replacement Design Phase of Lakeshore Drive. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 3/0.**

**Well 11 Replacement (Phase II of II):**

Request is based on the Engineer's opinion of Probable Construction Costs, with an anticipated bidding timeframe of June 2025. Phase II of this project includes construction, development, and project oversight. With the upcoming PFAS Treatment Facility on Hartford Avenue, combined with the high-demand season, makes the need for ample water supply from the southern Wrentham facility crucial.

**J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend \$1,191,000 for the Well 11 Replacement. J. Collamati seconded. Recommended 3/0.**

**Well 3 Replacement Engineering Services (Phase I of II):**

This request is for hydrogeologic, design, permitting, and bidding services for the replacement of Well 3. Historically, Well 3 serviced Bellingham with a significant source of water. Recent redevelopment was unsuccessful, causing the need to replace the failing well.

**J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$257,500 for Phase I of the Well 3 Replacement Engineering Services. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 3/0.**

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**Public Hearing:** Bellingham School Superintendent, Mr. Marano and School Committee Members were present to discuss the Department's Capital Requests, as follows:

**High School Textbooks:**

Information was provided for the World Language curriculum. This request is for a 6-Year subscription and includes textbooks and digital licenses. The curriculum request includes a bundled discount for 655 students for Spanish I – IV, and 16 teacher bundles.

**J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend \$91,535 for the purchase of High School Textbooks. J. Collamati seconded. Recommended 3/0.**

**Math Textbooks:**

This request is for the purchase of Math Textbooks, for Algebra I, II, and Geometry. These would be student and teacher editions and include digital subscriptions for 3 years. This curriculum request includes a bundled discount for 450 students, and 12 teacher bundles.

**J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend \$55,602 for the purchase of math textbooks. J. Collamati seconded. Recommended 3/0.**

**BMS Gym Upgrades:**

An estimate was provided for members to review work that needs to be done in the Middle School Gymnasium. Estimate includes the replacement of existing walk-draw curtains with vinyl fold up curtains. Backboard perimeters will have the installation of perimeter LED kits, as well as additional upgrades to the existing backboards.

**J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$75,000 for the upgrades to the BMS Gym. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 3/0.**

**Student Information Software:**

This request is to replace the existing software through a conversion process for student information data compilation, as well as Special Education software. This needs to be done in order to fulfill Federal and State reporting compliances. The existing software is no longer able to accommodate State reporting obligations.

**J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend \$76,712 for the purchase of student information software. J. Collamati seconded. Recommended 3/0.**

**DiPietro Elementary Cafeteria Floor Replacement:**

Information was provided to members for the need of removal of the existing cafeteria flooring, and replacement of the 3,704 sq. ft. with LVT flooring.

**J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$71,036 for the DiPietro Elementary Cafeteria Floor replacement. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 3/0.**

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R. Lavallee made a motion to adjourn at 6:03 pm. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Meeting adjourned 3/0.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Tina M. Griffin*  
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