

Capital Improvements Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at 5:30 pm
Bellingham Municipal Center
Arcand Meeting Room

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

Capital Improvements Committee Members Absent: All Members Present

Meeting Commenced: R. Lavallee called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

K. Grant made a motion to approve the Minutes from the October 26, 2022, Capital Improvements Committee Meeting, as submitted. Seconded by J. Collamati. Recommended 4/0.

Public Hearing: Chief Daigle and Lieutenant Russell from the Police Department were present to discuss the Capital Request as follows:

The Police Department is requesting a new vehicle in the amount of \$76,368, to replace a 2016 Ford Police Utility Vehicle with a 2023 Ford F-150 Responder pickup truck. This would include the purchase and installation of a Getac mobile computer, with mount and keyboard. This vehicle request is due to the current fleet vehicles not being able to transport bulk items. This vehicle would be used for patrol, as well as road closures, barricades, signs, cones, etc. Would also be able to help with crime evidence and found property, such as transportation of drugs, stolen property, bicycles, car parts, etc. This vehicle would also be used for Community events, such as transporting tables, chairs, tents, etc.

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend the purchase of a Ford F-150 pickup truck as described above. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 4/0.

Public Hearing – School Superintendent, Peter Marano, along with Facilities Manager, Doug Houston were present at tonight's meeting to discuss the School Departments Capital requests, as follows:

14 Passenger Bus:

The School Department does currently have a 14-passenger bus for athletics. The request for an additional bus is due to the significant cost savings over the Vendetti Bus contract of \$70 per hour plus \$4 per mile, with a \$400 minimum. Adding a second bus would increase the savings and would allow teams that are greater than 14 to travel in two separate busses during events. The current annual savings would be estimated at approximately \$20k - \$25k. The estimated cost of \$65,000 for the purchase would have an estimated 3-year payback.

K. Grant made a motion to recommend the purchase of a 14 passenger athletic bus, in the amount that was quoted above. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 4/0.

High School Cafeteria Tables and Chairs:

The request for the replacement of the High School cafeteria tables and chairs is being requested due to the existing sets becoming a hazard. The current sets are approximately 20 years old, and well past their warranty period. Descriptions and information regarding the new tables and chairs to be purchased, in the amount of \$84,180 has been provided to all Committee Members for review.

K. Grant made a motion to recommend the purchase of new High School Cafeteria tables and chairs, as described above. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 4/0.

Paving and Lighting of Handicap Parking at the Middle School:

Excavation and Paving of BMS for the addition of 12 parking spaces in front of the School was presented to Committee Members. These spots will be used for handicap spaces as well as short-term parking. These parking spaces were originally on the blueprints for BMS and are needed, as there are no spaces close to the School entrance for these purposes. The pricing of \$50,392 does not include line painting, striping or signage.

K. Grant made a motion to recommend the paving and lighting of handicap parking and short-term parking at the Middle School, as described above. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 4/0.

Upgrade WI-FI Access Points in All School Buildings:

Mr. Garofano provided information to all Committee Members regarding this request. The School access points are due for replacement and will provide additional bandwidth for users. Bandwidth requirements increase annually. The Department has been able to secure 50% of the funding source from E-Rate. In addition, the IT Department will do the installation, with savings of an additional \$16,000. The total replacement of 227 access points and mounting brackets is \$153,906. The Department is requesting \$76,953, due the other half being funded by E-Rate.

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend the WI-FI upgrade for the School access points as described above. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 4/0.

DiPietro School Parking:

Mr. Fraine and Mr. Marano discussed the possibility of adding a dedicated “buses only” line at DiPietro School now that the Primavera School has been demolished. The student drop-off line is very difficult to get into at DiPietro School and the current lane is combined with the buses and parent drop-off vehicles. We would be looking for this sometime in the future and it probably wouldn’t be until November, but this is just a placeholder for an item that is “to be determined.” We will be getting prices for the possible expansion of approximately 12’ wide at 4.5” deep for “buses only”. More details to follow at a later date.

Bellingham High School Expansion:

As a placeholder for a future Town Meeting, there has been discussion of a potential expansion to the High School. This additional space would be to provide some room for additional Chapter 74 Programs. MSBA funding may be available. The cost is estimated to be \$15,000,000. More details and ideas to follow as they become available.

DPW Administration Building at 215 Depot Street:

Mr. Fraine gave an update on the construction of the new DPW Administration Building that will be built at 215 Depot Street. The project should consist of approximately 3,000 sq. ft. of office space. The estimated project pricing was \$2,600,000 and may have some cost adjustments as the project gets closer to construction, due to pricing of materials, etc.

K. Grant made a motion to support the DPW Administration Building to be constructed at 215 Depot Street, as described above. J. Collamati seconded. Recommended 4/0.

New Business, Emails, Correspondence, Bills:

The next Capital Improvements Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 5:30 pm.

J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to adjourn at 6:28 pm. Seconded by K. Grant. Recommended 4/0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina M. Griffin
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