

Capital Planning Committee

March 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes
Remote meeting via Zoom

Call to Order: Committee Chair Jonathan Barry called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. Those present included Mr. Barry, Peter Berube, Jim McCaffrey, John Corcoran, Carol Johnson and Mike Guzinski. Mr. Wiggin, Mr. Mullaney and Ms. LaBarge from the school department were also in attendance.

The committee approved minutes from the January 21, 2021 meetings with all in favor and none opposed.

Mr. Wiggin reviewed capital requests for the school department which included 2 special education vans, a new school bus lease, iPads, and a skid steer. The school bus is a replacement for a current bus that is currently on a DOT waiver that will expire at the end of the school year and will not be usable after that. The SPED vans are to replace 1 van that can no longer be used for student transportation due to its size and another van that has over 140000 miles. The school is looking to replace these with hybrid vehicles that could be charged using the charger that was installed at the Clyde Brown school and would potentially qualify for some portion of funding to be provided through a Green Communities grant. The town currently has 10 full size buses and 21 smaller vans. Mr. Barry asked Mr. Wiggin if the school could provide the committee with a comprehensive list of all vehicles that the school currently has and when replacements would be expected (similar to what the police department has provided regarding cruisers).

The school currently rents a skid steer at about \$6000 per year to do snow removal and other cleanup projects around the school. It is also used to lift heavy pallets that are delivered from time to time. The school would like to buy a skid steer outright to replace this. The committee asked if this could be shared with other town departments (e.g. used to plow town hall or library) from time to time and the school was open to that suggestion.

Mr Barry reviewed the latest version of the capital planning master workbook and noted there were now over \$80 million worth of projects on the list, up from about \$56M that was shared with the Town in last year's report.

The committee discussed the need for additional administrative and technology support as the ability for the committee to continue to make progress with the capital plan as the current structure (small committee with no support and no technology resources) is unsustainable.

The committee agreed to meet on March 15 and March 18 to work on prioritization of capital projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.