

Capital Expenditures Committee Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2005, 7:30-10:55 p.m. Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Office
Building

Burnell, Edson, Lamb, Rosenberg, Stolz present
Kanter for Appropriation present

Guests as noted.

1. DPW: Defer replacement of Truck 34 (6-wheel dumper, used for road repair and snowplowing; road repairs mostly by new pothole patcher, so can extend life of truck with winter only seasonal use); instead buy (a) front-end-loader mounted snow blower to clean Center (lifts snow into truck) and (b) two new sidewalk tractors with front-mounted snow blowers (to augment the current equipment and replace less effective V plows). The committee accepted this new and overall equipment schedule, 5-0; \$485,000 to be funded by BANs.

2. Sidewalks: \$50,000 request, half to redo Eddison Way sidewalk (second block back in the alleyway) and \$25,000 for other work to be specified. No overall town priority setting. Selectmen's sidewalk advisory committee not meeting yet. Sidewalks along state roads (Marrett, Bedford) require complex negotiations and approvals; may do more on Marrett when state bids redoing signals at Waltham intersection. Kanter suggests endorsing use of Ch. 90 funds for sidewalks, too (as for storm drain repairs), which the Selectmen have not done. The committee endorsed 4-1; Rosenberg felt not worth proceeding piecemeal pending better townwide study, priority setting.

3. DPW barn and office building: Bill Hadley (not present) to prepare analysis for town meeting, on uses, barn only vs. barn plus office building, colocation, CDM study of Bedford and other sites.

4. Fire HQ floor: current truck weights are 10% over design load, but not in danger of failure. DPW recommends full engineering study to evaluate moving pipes, ducts, wires under floor, addressing moisture and void problems in crawl space, suggesting remedies before new, heavier equipment added to existing equipment. \$50,000. Committee endorsed 5-0. Probably the most deferrable item.

Sam Silverman, study of traffic lights and safety at Mass. Ave. and Maple, Pleasant and Mass. Ave., Marrett and Mass. Ave. Proposes borrowing \$80,000 for study of Mass. Ave. traffic, including design of solution for Mass. and Maple. Town Comprehensive Plan lists as fourth highest accident site, after three on Bedford St. DPW says are fender benders, and worries that lights would cause fewer but higher speed, higher injury accidents; not DPW highest priority. In

discussion, committee pointed out that any remedies (DPW estimates cost at \$600,000 for the three intersections to get lights, exclusive of land takings, legal fees, overhead) would take too long to affect problems on Mass. Ave. from higher traffic at Lowell and Maple (being addressed separately with new light controller). DPW not optimistic that lights, signage, policing could usefully modify driver behavior through the intersections. Article 33a will be indefinitely postponed because Maple and Lowell covered in town recommendations; 33b, on other Mass. Ave. intersections, Committee opposes, 5-0, given no consensus in town on moving forward and relatively low priority.

On other town traffic priority, Concord and Waltham left turn, committee remains opposed.

Bob Bicknell, Community Preservation Act. Articles 7 and 8. Discussion of how manage separate pot of funds; articles to Town Meeting for appropriation, but only CPA committee can change language project scope. Competition for community support, resources; March 20 06 vote before operating and capital override. Appeal of matching funds, uncertain if can pay for White House if expansion, what would have paid for Cary Library renovation. Committee will take position on issues (Act, 3%, \$100,000 exemption, low income exemption, not commercial exemption?), but does not think Capital or Appropriation should have voting seat on committee. Action deferred, reading materials distributed.

Committee discussion of articles.

School capital: cleaning equipment, yes \$50,000 for two floor scrubbers, no on the remaining \$354,000 request

Technology: no information yet.

Heating controls: no information yet

Lincoln Park bathroom building: no proposal on floor as Selectmen, Recreation, Lincoln Field subcommittee at odds; Recreation seeks Cash BAN, but several committee members may see this as at least recreation enterprise.

Appropriation needs discuss funding, enterprise stability.

Double utility poles: no committee action needed.

Article 14, municipal utility home rule resolution: no action needed.

Article 11a, providing for assistant town manager to carry on in case of town manager absence: Kanter urges support as fiscally responsible, Stolz endorses. 3-2 not to take any action.

Article 19, North Street: front vs. rear parcels. Rear, larger parcel as conservation? 5-0 in favor. Frontage parcel? action deferred

Articles 20-21, Middlesex hospital land: defer action

Article 22, DCAM fast sale of property, 5-0 in favor of article

Article 23, Franklin apartments: no information yet, defer.

John Rosenberg, Clerk