

Cohasset Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday February 1, 2023

Virtual Meeting-Zoom Video Call

7 pm

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 20(b), following Governor Baker's declaration of a state of emergency in the Commonwealth arising from the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Advisory Committee will meet virtually utilizing remote technology. All votes will be taken by a Roll-Call Vote.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rob Hillman at 7:03 pm. Present-Jeanne Astino, Present – Mike Barclay, Present- Fran Collins, Present- Patrick Kennedy, Present- Ellen Maher, Present – Mary McGoldrick, Present - Meg Wheeler, Present – Rob Hillman

Absent: Mark Maggi

Guest: Capital Budget Committee / Brian Host Chair, Michael Dick, Susan Franklin

Chair Hillman distributed the FY 24 Capital Budget Spreadsheet for all departments, representing \$7,303,023 in requests.

Capital Budget Chair Host led the discussion beginning with the road resurfacing plan including discussion of increase in costs and the true appropriations needed to complete the plan and how the funding shifted from the department to Capital Budgets.

DPW requesting 2 pieces of equipment and the rest of their requests are for the Schools' driveway and sidewalk paving including plans for a new parking lot for the school buses.

Police vehicle fleet is 12 cars; the standard program is to buy 2 new cars each year and retire 2 cars each year.

The Government Island Pier rebuild project is delayed for 1 year.

There is a request for an assessment for a new Public Safety Building for \$200,000.

Mary McGoldrick inquired if the charter of the Capital Budget Committee is to support assessments and Brian Host advised that it does in the sense that assessments usually lead to projects which are funded through the Capital process.

School Department Capital requests were reviewed, including the request for a generator at the Osgood School. Michael Dick from Capital updated on the School Facilities Committee meeting he watched. They are going to use the AI3 Report to develop a comprehensive maintenance plan to present to the School Committee. Chair Hillman opined it would be beneficial for the SFC to review with Advisory and Capital Budgets after the SC presentation.

The group then discussed the present Capital Budget funding formula. It has not changed materially since 2010 yet the cost of everything from labor to supplies and materials has. The budget has essentially been \$1,900,000 every year. In 2010, Capital Budget did not fund road improvements but 5 years ago, those projects shifted from the DPW budget to Capital Budget, yet the funding source did not.

Discussion ensued regarding costs of the projected 10-year maintenance plans for the schools and other town assets. It's believed they are understated based on current labor costs and inflation.

Both committees discussed the rejection by the MSBA to proceed in the process for a new Middle High School. Although Capital approved the funding for the AI3 study, it was not clear at the time it would lead to an application for a new building. The schools have requested for \$2,000,000 for a feasibility study for a new MHS, that may preclude MSBA participation. It's unclear whether Cohasset will submit an SOI this year to MSBA.

Brian Host indicated that the Capital Budget Committee does not presently have any requests from the Town Hall Committee at the moment.

Mrs. McGoldrick commented that local organizations such as the Cohasset Sports Partnership, the CEF and Booster groups can be funding sources.

Brian Host circled back to the road repair funding questions and re-raised the inquiry about where the funding came from before it fell into Capital Budgets. Were there TM appropriations or Chapter 70 money or was there funding in the operational budget?

Mr. Barclay commented that there should be a master plan for projects with funding sources and fundraising targets articulated.

Chair Hillman thanked the Capital Budget team for their presentation.

Chair Hillman moved on to Reports from Liaisons. Mrs. McGoldrick commented that dialogue with the schools has been open and productive. She asked for questions from the group for the Schools for next week's meeting. Mrs. Maher and Mrs. Astino outlined the big topics from the subcommittee meeting with the schools.

Mrs. McGoldrick and Mr. Kennedy commented on the Zoning Bylaw Committee and indicated some of the bylaw changes will be on the warrant for Town Meeting and some for Special Town

meeting. Chair Hillman inquired if Town Counsel would weigh in on the proposed changes and Mr. Kennedy advised that the Zoning Bylaw Committee has a former Chief Justice helping with the review process. The changes being proposed by zoning need to be socialized within the community and neighborhoods as the changes might impact individual landowners.

Mrs. McGoldrick advised that the Town Hall Building Committee has hired a new project manager and they may have numbers in 3-4 weeks.

Chair Hillman advised that we should be seeing 1-2 departments per meeting for the next few weeks to review budgets: CPC, Planning, Field/Recreation, Zoning

Motion to approve January 18., 2023 minutes by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mrs. Astino. Roll call Aye-Jeanne Astino, Aye- Mike Barclay, Aye- Fran Collins, Aye- Patrick Kennedy, Aye- Ellen Maher, Aye- Meg Wheeler, Aye Mary McGoldrick Aye – Rob Hillman

Motion to adjourn at 8:46 pm by Mrs. Astino, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, Roll call Aye-Jeanne Action, Aye- Mike Barclay, Aye- Fran Collins, Aye- Patrick Kennedy, Aye- Ellen Maher, Aye- Meg Wheeler, Aye Mary McGoldrick Aye – Rob Hillman