

Minutes  
Capital Improvement Committee  
January 30, 2023

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Members Attending: Kathy Logue, Bruce Stone, Matt Merry, Cindy Mitchell, Larry Schubert, Richard Knabel and Joe Tierney

Also Attending: Amelia Smith, Nicola Blake (Energy Committee)

Absent: Clark Rattet

The meeting opened at 4:33 pm.

The minutes of January 9, 2023 meeting were approved by roll call vote, with Cindy Mitchell and Larry Schubert abstaining.

Amelia Smith, as administrative assistant to the Energy Committee, briefly reviewed the proposed request for EV chargers at the West Tisbury School. She noted that it was expected that some of the requested funds may not be needed, but the timing is such that it cannot be quantified now. The EVIP grants pay for hardware and 'installation,' so it is hoped that if received, it will pay for the lion's share of the project cost; they expect to hear back within 4-6 weeks. Matt Merry inquired about the location, given the parallel request for more electric service, in hopes that the parking lot would not be torn up twice. It was also noted that there would be no level 3 (very fast) charges at this time. After some discussion, it was the consensus that the appropriate priority for this was 2, in keeping with moving the energy agenda forward without great expense. The car owners would pay for the electricity used, as they currently do at the library.

Kathy outlined the request from the UIRSD for a late-breaking \$120,000 warrant article to do a space needs study on the educational (vs. energy or system) requirements at the WT School; WT would pay 80% per the capital formula. She explained that this came from discussions about what else should be done to the building if the energy project was moving forward. If the district expects to consider MSBA funding for the larger project, then only an MSBA feasibility study would be accepted, so a larger study has been ruled out at this time because they are not yet at that stage, nor can the school administrative staff support any other building projects of scale at this time. Kathy said she liked this concept of focusing on the educational needs, but thinks that this request is coming too soon, as she does not see the larger project happening for 5-10 years out. Cindy agreed. Bruce questioned the driving force behind this doing the school study now – was it educational needs or had it been raised only after the proposed energy upgrades? He also pointed out that while the school's narrative cites a recent increase in the school population, the population was in fact still considerably lower than it had been 8-10 years ago. The consensus was that a priority of 3 was appropriate given the timing and the urgency relative to many other projects in the pipeline.

Kathy then reported what she had learned from Jen Rand regarding the Library's failing HVAC system. It is likely the correct fix will be in the seven figures. The consultant's report gave us three options: continue with repairs as needed; replace the condenser units and leaking fittings; or replace everything but the duct work. The system is nine years into its projected 15-year life, but the manufacturer of the leaking fittings has gone out of business so there is no recourse there. They reported that \$80,000 has already been spent on band aids, and it is likely that another \$26,000 will need to be spent to keep the heat marginally operational before a more permanent solution can be carried out. A meeting of the town facilities committee is scheduled for later in the week to discuss the consultant's report, but it was agreed that this project was likely a priority of 1.

The Committee reviewed the draft chart and made the following revisions:

- EV chargers at the school – priority 2
- Library HVAC repairs – priority 1
- ParksRec (beach railing and field irrigation) – priority 2
- Changed the relative costs/timing of highway trucks over three years
- Reduced the Howes House request to \$215,000 to complete design
- Updated the cruiser request to \$43,000
- Split the UIRSD into two lines
  - one for the electric upgrade and boiler work – priority 1
  - one for the space needs and longer term renovations – priority 3
- Remove the footnote about school debt as that arrangement has changed

The Committee then moved on to reviewing the draft text of the annual report, and made the following revisions:

- Make sure dollars in text agree with those in the chart (Howes House, cruiser, highway truck, etc.)
- For schools, per Mark Friedman's suggestion, clarify that the authorization is for the high school district (not the towns) to borrow for the feasibility study. Include modified language about the WT school larger project, and that the committee considers this premature.
- Add a paragraph regarding the library HVAC

The next meeting will be held on February 13<sup>th</sup>, at 4:30 PM via Zoom, if needed. Otherwise, Kathy was authorized to make the necessary changes as further details emerge, and to circulate the final draft around one more time for review.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Logue

*Approved September 18, 2023*