

Town of Sterling
Joint Capital Budget and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Butterick Building
March 10, 2022

Capital Budget Committee called to order by Lynne Sheppard at 6pm.

Finance Committee called to order at 6pm.

Capital Budget Committee Attendees: Lynne Sheppard, Everett Heller, Chris Paquette, Christina Lashua, Bob Brown – Remote

Finance Committee Attendees: Everett Heller, Lynne Sheppard, Christina Lashua, Chris Paquette, Joe King

Absent from FinCom: Elizabeth Soutter

Other Attendees: Valerie Handy, Recording Secretary; Fred Aponte, Town Accountant; Dick Maki, Sterling Resident

Approval of CBC Minutes of March 3, 2022: Motion by Everett Heller^{2nd} by Chris Paquette. Roll call vote unanimously supported.

The Capital Budget Committee reviewed new and tabled FY23 Capital Requests. Status as follows:

Remove from Table status Police Repair HVAC System FY23 Request \$40k: Motion by Lynne Sheppard, 2nd by Chris Paquette. Roll call vote unanimously supported.

Remove from Table status, 1835 Building FY23 Request \$62.2k: Motion by Everett Heller, 2nd by Chris Paquette. Roll call vote unanimously supported.

Remove from Table status West Sterling Schoolhouse Repair FY23 Request \$11k: Motion by Everett Heller, 2nd Chris Paquette. Roll call vote unanimously supported. Representing the schoolhouse project, David Gibbs provided the committees with additional background relevant to the request. \$7.7k has been spent mostly on masonry work and \$3.9k still remains open from previous year receipts. Current portico project is estimated to cost \$11k and the Capital Request for additional restoration at a cost of \$11k would be funded in FY23. The committees have received a five- year plan for the schoolhouse and cautioned that wording on the warrant not be too specific to allow utilization of all funds.

Accept Chocksett School Flooring Replacement New FY23 Request \$100k: Motion by Chris Paquette, 2nd by Christina Lashua. Roll call vote unanimously supported.

Accept Houghton School Flooring Replacement New FY23 Request \$100k: Motion by Chris Paquette, 2nd by Christina Lashua. Roll call vote unanimously supported.

Remove from Table status Citizen Petition Playground Fy23 Request \$120k: Motion by Chris Paquette, 2nd By Christina Lashua. Roll call vote unanimously supported. Playground will not be Capital funded. Inspection of the current Houghton playground by M.E. O'Brien and Sons scheduled for 10:30am on Tuesday March 15, in order for them to provide an alternate quote. Lynne Sheppard and Matt Marro (ADA coordinator) will be in attendance at the inspection.

Recap of Projects Accepted by Capital Budget Committee: FY23 Accepted projects are: Butterick Roof, DPW 6-wheel truck, DPW pickup/plow, Campground Rd. Culvert, Fire Dept Scuba, New Police vehicle, New flooring Chocksett & Houghton schools.

Next Meeting to be determined as needed

Adjourn Capital Committee: Motion by Christina Lashua, 2nd by Chris Paquette. Roll call vote unanimously supported.

DPW (Ryan Mouradian) Presentation to Finance Committee: Ryan provided information and took questions regarding the following two FY23 DPW capital requests totaling \$500k:

Rt 140 Rt 62 Intersection FY23 Capital Request \$250k: The state has issued a DOT# for this project indicating its' increased viability as progress continues through the Wachusett Regional Transportation board. Timing is important consultant and engineering funding enabling the town to be ready for state funded construction of the rotary.

Local Roads and Sidewalks FY23 Request \$250k: Completed road assessment study gave Sterling an overall grade of C- (score of 71) for roads. The goal is 80. It was noted that water main work is to be included in the request. There is currently over 80 miles of water main in the town and as example, \$650k would not replace one mile of water main. Going forward, the town will need to contribute towards roads and sidewalks yearly, over and above Chapter 90 funding received by the town (approximately \$410K this year).

Fincom Discussion on Funding Options: Local roads to be removed from borrowing—it was agreed to include some of pavement costs in annual budget (supplemented by other funds to improve current road quality to acceptable level.

Funding for RT140 intersection to be removed from borrowing. Possible funding source: Capital or Free Cash. Everett Heller and Fred Aponte to work on funding details for next meeting.

Next Fincom Meeting: Tuesday March 15, 2022

Adjourn Finance Committee at 7:30pm: Motion by Christina Lashua, 2nd by Christopher Paquette. Roll call vote unanimously supported.