

Town of Sterling
Joint Finance and Capital Budget Committee Minutes
February 10, 2022

Finance Committee meeting called to order by Everett Heller at 6:10pm

Capital Budget Committee meeting called to order by Lynne Sheppard at 6:10pm.

CBC Attendees: Lynne Sheppard, Chair; Christina Lashua, Vice-Chair; Everett Heller, Chris Paquette, Bob Brown (Remote)

Finance Committee Attendees: Everett Heller, Chair; Chris Paquette, Vice-Chair; Christina Lashua, Lynne Sheppard, Elizabeth Soutter (Remote)

Other Attendees: Valerie Handy, Recording Secretary; Dick Maki (Sterling resident)

Capital Budget Committee Presents Recommendations to Finance Committee: The Capital Budget Committee revisited the February 7 meeting's tabled items from the **FY23 Funding Request**. New information was presented and discussed. The results are as follows:

Facilities FY23 Requested– Liaison, Chris Paquette:

No Action: Continue Table Replacement of HVAC with Heat Pump System Police Station, \$17,400: Chris and Fred Aponte will be receiving additional information on re-routing conduits.

Police FY23 Requested – Liaison, Christina Lashua

Remove Table Vote and Approve Replace one of two specialty vehicles \$52,000: Monies requested for the vehicles is sufficient. Motion by Christina Lashua, 2nd Chris Paquette. Roll call vote unanimously supported.

DPW FY23 Requested – Liaison, Everett Heller

Remove Table Vote and Approve Cemetery Roads \$12,000: After discussion with DPW there is an urgent need to start repairs. Motion by Everett Heller, 2nd Christina Lashua. Roll call vote unanimously supported.

1835 Building FY23 Requested -Liaison, Chris Paquette

No Action: Continue Table of All Line Item requests (total \$62,600): The building is usable per Board of Health. More information needed regarding pending (ADA) Disability bathroom.

Historical Commission FY23 Requested – Liaison, Elizabeth Soutter

No Action: Continue Table of West Sterling School House Repair \$11,000: Committee needs more information and requests a long-term plan for the structure.

IT – FY23 Requests – Liaison Elizabeth Soutter

Remove Table vote and Approve IT requests (total \$85,000): Motion by Everett Heller, 2nd Christina Lashua. Roll call vote unanimously supported. Fred Aponte, Town Accountant and IT point-of-contact, provided backup regarding the Dual Factor Authorization and new servers. The total amount requested will remain at \$85,000.

Citizens Petition FY23 Request – Liaison, Everett Heller

Remove Disapproval vote and Table Houghton Playground Structure \$120,000. Motion by Christina Lashua, 2nd by Lynne Sheppard. Roll call vote: Everett Heller – No; Lynne Sheppard – Yes; Chris Paquette – Yes; Christina Lashua – Yes; Bob Brown – Yes. Majority vote to table. No construction has begun on the playground. Status of old playground structure uncertain. Committee to request 2019 quote of \$100,000, cost increase detail and will inquire about getting additional quotes for the playground as total requested to date at \$250,000.

Motion to Adjourn Capital Budget Committee Meeting at 7:00pm: Motion made by Christina Lashua, 2nd Chris Paquette. Roll Call vote unanimously supported

Discussion of Upcoming Finance Committee Issues: General discussion of upcoming responsibilities and timetable related to upcoming warrants and town meeting.

Fincom Meeting with Select Board and WRSD: February 16 2022 with Select Board and Wachusett Regional School District: Butterick Building 6:30pm

Next Finance Committee Meeting: February 17, 2022, Butterick Building 6:00pm

Motion to Adjourn Finance Committee Meeting at 7:30pm Motion made by Christina Lashua, 2nd Chris Paquette. Roll Call vote unanimously supported