

Town of Sterling
Joint Capital Budget and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Butterick Building
February 7, 2023

Finance Committee called to order by Chris Paquette at 6:30pm

Capital Budget Committee called to order by Lynne Sheppard at 6:30pm.

Finance Committee Attendees: Chris Paquette, Chair; Lynne Sheppard, Joe King, Paul Austin, Christina Lashua, George Handy

Capital Budget Committee Attendees: Lynne Sheppard, Chair; Chris Paquette, Christina Lashua, Paul Austin, Joe King, Liz Pape

Other Attendees: Bill Caldwell, Town Administrator; Fred Aponte, Town Accountant; Maureen Cranson and John Kilcoyne, Select Board

Approval of Minutes of December 20, 2022: Motion by George Handy, 2nd by Lynne Sheppard. Roll call vote unanimously supported.

Approval of Minutes of January 31, 2023: Motion by George Handy, 2nd by Lynne Sheppard. Roll call vote unanimously supported.

FY24 Department Head Omnibus Budget and Capital Requests. *The following were discussed, with no objections noted and all members were in favor of the request. Formal FinCom/CBC vote of approval is pending.*

Butterick: Windows, \$80K; Wiring, \$ 25K; Sprinkler,\$ 15K

Library Security Camera, \$29K

Fire: Additional Equipment, \$25K; HVAC, mini split in day room, \$20K; Jaws of Life Ladder1 \$26K; Attack Hose and Nozzle \$25K; Ambulance 1 Replacement to be Debt Finance and paid with Ambulance Receipts, \$400K.

Police: Radio License, \$10K; Squadron Renovations (moved to Operations), \$30K; New Computers \$5K (IT Budgeted).

DPW: Truck 8 Refurbish \$10K (not operations item), Truck 5 Pick-up with plow. New replacement., \$70K; Truck 9 Leaf/chipper and dump body larger truck, \$135K; Wheeled Excavator, \$75K (needs funding source and is split with Water Department); Road Plates, \$10K; Wide Area Mower, \$80K; New DPW Facility Consulting Fees and Testing, \$50K; Route 140 and Route 62 Design and Engineering Plans, \$250K

Water (Enterprise Fund): New water source development, \$115K; West Sterling Variable Drives and Generator Replacement, \$700K; Wheeled Excavator, \$75K (split with DPW); Truck 27 Full size truck with utility body and plow, \$90K.

Open Space: Trail Work \$6K

Historical Commission: Legg and Oak Hill Headstones Repair \$8K.

Schools: Security Camera to be wired to feed into Police Dispatch, \$100K, District Request, \$73K.

Town Clerk: New Election Equipment, \$25K

Other: Greenways/Land Trust \$3k; East Lake Waushacum \$24K.

Recreation: Aerator/Seeder, \$16K

The following Historical Commission request for School House Rehab \$11K was discussed. Objections are as follows and none of the members were in favor of the request. Requests for funds for the school house are at a disconnect as no end purpose or goal for the building is in place.

Discuss and Review Resulting Option Scenarios for the FY24 Town Expense and Capital

Budgets: Joe King presented options, focusing on OPEB. The goal is to be fully funded. Also discussed was moving \$335K request for DPW Route 140 and Route 62 Intersection to Capital. Tied into this discussion was the categories of Free Cash, Tax Levy and Tax Rate. Fred Aponte, Town Accountant pointed out that Free Cash cannot be calculated. Free Cash equals a one-time expense.

2022 Finance and Capital Annual Report: Lynn Sheppard will spearhead this effort. The report is calendar based (July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023) and will be part of the published town report.

Next Meeting: March 7, 6:30 pm Joint Finance and Capital Meeting.

Finance and Capital Budget Meeting Adjourned at 8:30pm: Unanimously supported.