

Town of Rockland, MA
Capital Planning Committee

DATE: Thursday, January 16, 2025, 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Rockland Town Hall, Upstairs Main Conference Room

ATTENDEES: Richard Harris, Chairman
Chris Fulton, Vice Chairman
Lauren White
Bill Principe
Linda Sternfelt, Secretary

GUESTS: Kristel Cameron

ABSENTEES: Doug Walo

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

The minutes from September 26, 2024 were tabled until the Committee's next meeting.

Chairman Harris reviewed the Water Department's capital plan items for FY 2025. Water meter replacements are continuing. Generator repair was approved at Special Town Meeting. This is in progress, but Ms. Cameron is trying to get it funded with ARPA funds if possible. Water Main Road Repairs were approved at Special Town Meeting. Repairs are in progress. Road Repairs in the amount of \$130K were approved at Town Meeting and are in progress. Water Plant Infrastructure Upgrades were approved at Town Meeting in the amount of \$100K and are also in progress. New Vehicles total 4 Trucks were approved at Town Meeting, have been ordered and are on the way. Water Tanks (\$3 million cost) need to be pushed out to FY 2028 because the department cannot afford this for FY 2026. Gate Valve Program was approved for \$30K at Town Meeting and is being expended. Hydrant Replacements for \$30K and Filter pump upgrades for \$50K were approved at Town Meeting and are in progress.

For FY 2026, Water Meter Replacements will need to be increased from \$85K per year to \$90K per year going forward. Meter locks and anti-tamper stickers are required. Each meter costs \$250 and 170 meters per town are replaced annually. Volumetric & chemical feed is required for the Myers Ave. plant in the amount of \$60K. This is a one-time expense and is now done daily on a manual basis. The equipment has a useful life estimated at 15+ years. Sandy Bottom gravity filter repairs will cost \$200K. The gravity filter must be completely renovated. This expense will be matched by Abington, and is mandatory. The repairs will last for over 20 years. Water Treatment emergency repairs are also mandatory. The pumps must be repaired in order for the plant to be effective. The amount is \$100K, and the repairs will last for over 20 years. Gate valve operating program will have a higher cost, \$50K per year. It is necessary to exercise the gate valves periodically so that they are operational in the case

of a water main break. Road repairs in the amount of \$100K are added to the plan in 2026 due to the frequency of water main breaks.

For the remainder of the five year plan, Ms. Cameron asked if three new trucks could be added to the plan for FY 2029, in the amount of \$130K.

Ms. Cameron rated the importance of her department's plan items as follows: Sandy Bottom Filter Repairs, Water Treatment emergency repairs, Gate Valve Operating Program and Volumetric & chemical feed.

Under New Business, Chairman Harris reported that the Committee should plan to meet every Thursday through March. He will book the downstairs conference room for that purpose. The Chairman will endeavor to have Dave Taylor attend next week's meeting to discuss Highway, Sewer and Cemetery Department capital needs. The Fire Department will attend in two weeks. If a meeting is not needed, the Chairman will inform the Committee and that meeting will be cancelled.

Ms. Sternfelt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. White seconded the motion. All approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Sternfelt, Secretary