

Town of Rockland, MA
Capital Planning Committee

DATE: Thursday, January 23, 2025, 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Rockland Town Hall, Upstairs Main Conference Room

ATTENDEES: Richard Harris, Chairman
Bill Principe
Linda Sternfelt, Secretary
Doug Walo

GUESTS: Elizabeth MacNeil, Chief Nick Zeoli, Deputy Chief Brian Coakley

ABSENTEES: Vice Chairman Chris Fulton, Lauren White

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

The meeting minutes from September 26, 2024 were reviewed by Ms. Sternfelt. Chairman Harris made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Principe seconded the motion. All approved.

The meeting minutes from January 16, 2025 were reviewed by Ms. Sternfelt. Chairman Harris made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ms. Sternfelt seconded the motion. All approved with the exception of Mr. Walo, who abstained as he was not present at the meeting in question.

Chairman Harris reviewed the Library's capital plan items for FY 2025. Town Meeting approved fixing the drainage in the Library's first floor in FY 2025. Resetting the Union Street Stairs (\$75K) should remain as a capital request for FY 2027. There are no other items that need to be added to the Capital Plan for the Library at this time. Chairman Harris made a motion to keep the Library's Capital Plan requests as is. Ms. Sternfelt seconded the motion. All approved.

Chairman Harris reviewed the Police Department's capital plan items for FY 2025. The new police vehicles were approved by Town Meeting, as was the new animal control vehicle, which is currently on order. The tazers were delivered and are functional. The rubber roof for the police station is completed and the parking lot is 80% complete except for the final coat that will be applied later this year.

The first capital request by the Police Department for FY 2026 is to replace the emergency generator, which will cost \$61K. A second capital request is for a complete re-do of the lockers in the men's locker room. The request is for 40 lockers. The lockers currently in place are 24 years old, are original to the building and are starting to rust. Some of the lockers are not operational at present. The proposed lockers will cost \$124,031.60, and are a little larger than what is currently in place. The new lockers will allow for electronics, breathable gear and firearms storage. The Police Department also has a capital request for \$140,722 for two new cruisers. This is part of the Department's capital plan that replaces cruisers as they approach the end of their useful life. Deputy Chief Coakley said that the cost of the

cruisers is expected to increase by 10-15% annually according to the supplier. The Chief said that the amount in the capital plan for this item in 2027 should be increased to \$155K. The Chief said that good equipment helps in recruitment, as new officers are looking at the quality of the department's equipment.

Chairman Harris asked if there are any capital needs for the department going forward. The Chief said that the department gets grants for the officers' vests. The next project in the future will be replacement of the department's radios, which the Chief expects will cost \$80K and will need to be replaced in FY 2027. This should be added to the Capital Plan. The Chief also said that the department's CAD software is paid for by grants. Chairman Harris asked about training needs. Deputy Chief Coakley said that the department tries to find grants for this purpose. Chairman Harris asked the Chief to rank its requested capital projects in order of the department's need. The Chief said that the vehicles are the first priority, and that they will have a useful life of less than ten years. The emergency generator is the second priority, and that will have a useful life of 20-25 years. The locker replacement is the third priority, and that will have a useful life of over 20 years. Chairman Harris made a motion to add the new items to the Capital Plan. Mr. Principe seconded the motion. All approved.

Chairman Harris said that next week's meeting (1/30/25) would be attended by Town Administrator Doug Lapp, who will discuss the Town Hall capital item requests. Fire Chief Scott Duffey will also be in attendance to discuss the Fire Department's capital item requests.

The Chairman told the Committee that Highway Superintendent Dave Taylor is unable to attend any meetings on Thursdays. He asked if the Committee can make a meeting next Wednesday for this purpose. Chairman Harris will see if this works for Mr. Taylor and the other members of the Committee. Mr. Principe and Ms. Sternfelt said that they are available next Wednesday, as Finance Committee is not meeting next week.

Chairman Harris said that other departments that have to meet with the Capital Planning Committee this budget season are the Parks Department, the Recreation Department and the School Department. He will work to schedule these departments over the next few weeks. The Chairman also said that he will draft a letter for the 2024 Town Report detailing the workings of the Committee in FY 2024, and will present it to the Committee for their comment and approval next week.

Ms. Sternfelt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Principe seconded the motion. All approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Sternfelt, Secretary