

Town of Rockland, MA
Capital Planning Committee

TOWN CLERK, ROCKLAND
MAR 7 '25 AM 11:12

DATE: Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Rockland Town Hall, Downstairs Conference Room

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

GUESTS: Dr. Alan Cron, Jane Hackett, Steve O'Donnell

ABSENTEES: None

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Ms. Sternfelt reviewed the meeting minutes of February 6, 2025. Vice Chairman Fulton made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Principe seconded the motion. All approved.

Chairman Harris reviewed the School Department's capital plan items for FY 2025. Town Meeting approved the Esten HVAC /electrical replacement, the Double Entry Upgrades for High School/Middle School, Camera Replacements security and server, Computer Replacements and SPED 7D Van Leases (8) for FY 2025.

Items already on the Capital Plan for FY2026 are the Replace Reed St. Track Design study for \$100K. This should be removed from the Capital Plan as this is being handled by the Park Department. \$85K is on the plan for Middle School Lighting replacement. This is actually for an upgrade of the software system that controls the lighting system and should be renamed. The cost of this upgrade is now \$100K and that should stay on the plan for FY 2026. This will have an eight year useful life. \$1,050,000 is on the plan for Esten School improvements. The School Department is working with Town Hall to bid out several Town projects at one time to get a better price. The purpose of this project is to upgrade the electrical system at Esten to get better air flow. This should be moved out to FY2027 and is expected to cost \$1 million. \$103K is on the plan for Camera Replacements security and server. This can be removed from the plan as the replacement has been completed and the cost was lower than budgeted. \$140K is on the plan for computer replacements. This should stay on the plan and be reduced to \$100K as the School Department is trying to save money by not replacing computers for the lower grades. \$300K is on the plan for Paving Parking Lots Esten. This should be moved to FY2027. \$100K is on the plan for SPED 7D Van Leases (8). This should stay on the plan and be reduced to \$90K as there is

decreased reliance on leases since the School Department purchased one of its vans coming off lease last year.

Requested capital items for FY 2026 include Middle School and High School HVAC controllers and software. This is an urgent need. The School Department is looking at grant funding for this if possible. The cost is \$100K and the useful life is 8-10 years. The School Department is also requesting an Ice Removal sidewalk plow and sander. The cost for the plow is \$40K and for the sander \$10K. These will be combined into one article for \$50K. There have been two injuries from falls on ice.

Chairman Harris asked if there were any future capital items to add to the plan. The School Department would like to add a F350 pickup truck to replace its 2008 Chevy 2500. This will be used for sanding and maintenance. The cost of this item is \$90K and will be replaced in FY2027. They would also like to add \$100K for software updates for the Phelps School infrastructure to the plan for FY 2030.

The Committee asked Dr. Cron and Ms. Hackett to rank its FY 2026 capital requests. The top items are the lighting software, HVAC software and van leases, all of which are necessary and required. Computer replacements are second and the sidewalk plow is third.

Mr. Walo made a motion to add these items to the capital plan. Ms. White seconded the motion. All approved.

Chairman Harris reviewed the CPA Committee capital plan items for FY 2025. The Headstone restoration for \$60K was approved by Town Meeting, as was \$75K for the Butterfly (ADA) Park.

In FY2026, a CPA Bond will be used to fund the renovation of Bicentennial Park. The revised cost of this will be \$3 million, not the \$2.5 million estimated by the Park Department, due to the CPA Committee's desire to have a sufficient amount of contingency expense in the budget for this project. This will be funded by a bond against CPA revenues, with a large downpayment. The Reeds Pond development item currently on the Capital Plan for 2026 should be pushed out to FY 2027, as the Town does not own the land.

There is a new request by the CPA Committee for FY2026 for a generator for Garden Terrace. This will fund emergency heating and lighting. This will come from the CPA Housing funds. The amount of the request is \$100K.

Chairman Harris asked about the Spring Street fields. Mr. O'Donnell replied that the Park Department wants to pause on the fencing for the fields as they want to see what they can do with the funds that they currently have in place. No additional funding should be added to the Capital Plan for this item.

Vice Chairman Fulton made a motion to add this item to the Capital Plan. Ms. White seconded the motion. All approved.

Chairman Harris said that the Committee will be meeting on Thursday, March 6 in the Downstairs Conference Room of Town Hall to score the Capital Plan items for FY 2026.

Vice Chairman Fulton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Walo seconded the motion. All approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Sternfelt, Secretary

