

# Longmeadow Capital Planning Committee

## Meeting Minutes

2/17/2022

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Metz

Attendees: Alex Aiken, Dan Healy, Stephen Metz, Ira Smolowitz, John Skypeck

Guests: MaryBeth Bergeron, Peter Landon

1. Minutes of January 19, 2022, were reviewed and approved as submitted.
2. Project Discussion
  - a. The criteria for reviewing the capital requests were reviewed:
    - i. Is it mandated by law or regulation?
    - ii. Does it address a safety issue?
    - iii. Does it promote efficiency?
    - iv. Does it improve the quality of life?
    - v. Does it improve aesthetics?
  - b. Members reported on results of respective project request evaluations which they had agreed to perform.
  - c. Information regarding the action of the Community Preservation Committee regarding Center School windows at their last meeting was received from MaryBeth Bergeron. She requested this committee change the name of the project to “repair or replace”, as the Preservation committee did. That would expand the options available to address the window problem.
3. Dr. Metz informed the committee that he had been advised by the town finance director Jennifer Leydon that the final number for the capital budget is \$2,020,762, approximately \$230,000 less than was estimated in the budget submitted by the Town Manager. This will require identification of projects which might be deferred or removed.
4. There was extensive discussion regarding changes in the proposed budget which would accommodate the decrease in the funding available. The results of the discussion are attached.

Rationale:

  - a: The Fire Truck fund was not intended to be the sole source of funding for a new fire truck, but rather a supplement to decrease the amount which must be bonded
  - b: As requested by the Building Committee, the Center School window project was renamed. As the capital budget portion represents only 8% of the funding requested for the project, the Committee recommends reducing the general fund contribution to 4%.
  - c: The Committee is very aware of the importance to the community of sidewalk and pavement preservation and repair. However, the proposed decrease amounts to only 4.6% of the total requested for these projects.

d. The committee discussed the proposed police station upgrade. The projected allocation for this project is \$50,000, comparable to that spent on the fire department kitchen last year. Dr. Metz described the very unsatisfactory condition of the present kitchen. He stressed that he had been advised by Chief Robert Stocks that this is a major dissatisfier for police personnel, and that the proposed upgrade would be a tremendous morale enhancement. Dr. Metz strongly urged keeping this project in the budget.

e: The committee is uncertain regarding the UTV project. Dr. Metz will research this item and report back to the committee at its next meeting. This will permit finalization of the Committee proposal.

5. The date and time of the meeting will be set when the above information is available.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Stephen Metz