



Franklin
MASSACHUSETTS

Finance Committee

Meeting Date: January 31, 2017

Present: Dufour, Dowd, Conley, Dewsnap, Fleming, Huempfer, Moses, Smith and Wiech

Absent: None

Call to order: 6:15 PM

Citizens Comments: None, no citizens present

Approval of minutes: Minutes of December 6, 2016 were reviewed and approved. Vote 8-0,

Items for Action:

- Capital Plan Overview
 - Deputy TA Hellen reviewed free cash that has already been allocated from the certified free cash of \$3,643,541. Items totaling \$2,128,000 have been allocated leaving \$1,515,541 for current year capital expenditures.
 - Capital Projects – DPW Summary
 - Total being recommended is \$280,000 out an original request of \$1,329,000. Additional funding for roads repairs/construction will be determined after winter costs have been finalized.
 - Capital Projects – Water Summary
 - Projects are funded from the water enterprise fund not from free cash. Total being recommended is \$1,360,000 out of an original request of \$1,785,000.
 - Capital Projects – Sewer Summary
 - Projects are funded from the sewer enterprise fund not from free cash. Total being recommended is \$565,000 out of an original request of \$658,000.
 - Capital Projects – Police Summary
 - Total being recommended is \$238,000 out of an original request of \$289,000.
 - Capital Projects – Fire Summary

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- Total being recommended is \$89,000 out of an original request of \$289,000.
- General Discussion Highlights
 - DPW – Three dump trucks are being replaced one of which is a shared expense with the water and sewer enterprise funds. \$1,000,000 was requested for road repair/construction. \$750,000 has been pre-allocated for potential snow removal costs in free cash and any amount not used will most likely be reallocated to road repair/construction. Requested items not recommended were determined not to have a detrimental effect on services.
 - Police – 5 cruisers were requested and 4 are recommended. This year four old style Ford Crown Vics are being replaced with SUV style cruisers. Equipment from the old cruisers is not compatible with the SUV style which drives the cost of the first conversion to the SUV style more expensive. Future years will most likely see a reduction in cost. Other requests not recommended included a police station facility study that will be done in the future once other projects are completed and the effect of the consolidation of dispatch into regional center is determined. Also pending for a potential second round in the spring is a crossing signal on Lincoln Street near the school.
 - Fire – the approved items are fairly routine technology and equipment. The department will be replacing the 1995 model Engine 3. Funding is from the fire truck stabilization account and \$115,000 from pre-allocated free cash for as total of \$600,000. It was noted by the chief that they are very persnickety about not replacing more than one truck at a time. Several items requested items may be revisited in the spring and replacement hydraulic tools for Station 2 will be a top priority next year since they are first due to incidents on route 495. The department's rescue boat is no longer serviceable and potential funding will be worked on in the spring. It is low use item but critical when needed. Incidents are rare.
 - Water – All funds are from the Water Enterprise Fund. The meter replacement program will continue. It is a revenue critical program since defective meters generally report low numbers. A water quality study of wells 3 & 6 and capacity is included. A shared truck with the DPW and roof improvements to various facilities is included. The roof replacements are in anticipation of continued upgrade of facilities – top down. A loan reduction of \$700,000 is included.
 - Sewer - All funds are from the Sewer Enterprise Fund. Various system improvements are funded at \$500,000 including the Easter Central Street Station. Other items are equipment related at \$110,000.
- General Discussion
 - Water projects this year will most likely be in the downtown area (Alpine Place, Ruggles Street etc.)

- The potential of replacing the Beaver Street Sewer Interceptor is looming in a few years with a large potential cost.
- A water treatment facility for wells 3 & 6 is on the horizon with a cost of \$6-7 million dollars. The probability of a water rate hike in 2-3 years is likely. The last hike was in 2012.

Actions Taken:

- No formal actions were taken

Discussion Items:

- TA Nutting indicated that the budget process has begun. He does not expect any major surprises at this time.

Meeting adjourned: 7:10 PM

Next meeting: February 14, 2017 at 6:15PM

Submitted by George Conley