

Budget Recommendations Advisory Committee
CIP 2
Nowak Room
Town Office Building
November 18, 2019
Draft Minutes

Members Present: Bob Kelly, Chair; Corey Stevens, Dan Gray, Don Clement, Judy Rowan, Nancy Belanger, Enna Grazier, Nicholas Gray, Anthony Zwaan and Liz Canada

Members Absent: Christine Soutter, Tai Chin Tung, Dave Beavens

Others Present: Russ Dean, Doreen Chester, Kathy Corson, Niko Papakonstantis, and Julie Gilman.

Mr. Kelly called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

1. Minutes

a. Oct 23

Ms. Rowan said that under the Fire section, the second paragraph starts with “she” but it should specify “Ms. Rowan.”

MOTION: Mr. Stevens moved to approve the minutes of October 23rd as amended. Mr. Clement seconded. All were in favor.

b. Oct 30

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve the minutes of October 30th as submitted. Dr. Zwaan seconded. All were in favor.

c. Nov 4

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve the minutes of November 4th as submitted. Dr. Zwaan seconded. Nicholas Gray abstained and the motion passed 9-0-1.

d. Nov 7

Ms. Rowan said that she was listed as present, but she was absent.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve the minutes of November 7th as amended. Dr. Zwaan seconded. All were in favor.

2. Introductory Remarks

Mr. Kelly said that Mr. Dean told him the town is in line to get a \$75,000 DES grant for the Westside Drive project. Mr. Kelly said the remaining \$25,000 can come out of the Sewer budget. Mr. Clement asked if this is still a warrant article, and Mr. Kelly said yes. The language will say there’s a grant involved. The town is also on the state revolving fund priority list for the siphons project, which would provide 10% principal forgiveness.

3. Conservation Commission

Kristin Murphy, the Natural Resource Planner, was present to discuss the Conservation Commission Fund CIP request. Ms. Murphy said that the Conservation Commission is requesting an allocation of \$100,000 to the existing Conservation Fund. This is a non-lapsing fund used for projects related to land acquisition and other conservation actions. In the past, there was a yearly allocation; in the early 2000s, that allocation stopped when they got a conservation bond, which they paid off in 2015. The Conservation Commission has been approached several times for acquisition projects, but the fund doesn't have enough to move forward. Even strict donations of land have some due diligence costs. A few smaller projects have gone through; for example, in 2015, they partnered with SELT to acquire property next to the Oaklands town forest. This year, ARM is likely to open a grant round for the Piscatequa region. This is money that developers are required to pay when there's significant wetland impact; it restores wetlands in the region of impact. The Conservation Commission requested \$100,000 knowing that this grant will come up.

Mr. Kelly asked if they had discussed doing another bond to have all the money up front. Ms. Murphy said a Subcommittee did discuss this; they tried to balance the tax burden with the opportunities. With a bond, the annual amount is the same, but you're committed for the full term; if it's an annual request through the CIP, that gives more flexibility. Ms. Rowan said that a bond is the less expensive way to go in this interest rate environment. Mr. Kelly said he agreed, but it didn't seem to come up with the Planning Board. Mr. Stevens said he doesn't want to go back every year and worry about a tight year. This is a tight year. Many of those projects would wipe out \$100,000 quickly. Dr. Zwaan said if they go back every year, people will be confused, and it's less likely to pass in the long run. Mr. Kelly countered that the Snow and Ice Fund and other funds are accepted once they get established. The problem is to get them going. \$100,000 is too much of an ask this year. Mr. Clement asked why the Planning Board moved the number from \$50,000 to \$100,000. Ms. Murphy said the discussion was that \$50,000 doesn't buy much, even with a match.

Mr. Kelly said he thought the option of a bond should be vetted further. Mr. Clement said a bond requires a 60% vote, not a majority, so it's a higher bar. He asked how many warrant articles the BRC had approved already, because too many items tend to cancel each other out. Mr. Stevens said eight right now. Mr. Kelly said that the Conservation Commission property list which Ms. Murphy presented is \$1.5 million of projects, so the yearly allocation will take a lot to get anywhere.

Mr. Dean said the General Fund has \$563,664 of warrant articles, with no further vehicles. It was \$488,000 in FY19.

Ms. Belanger said the subcommittee had no recommendations.

Ms. Grazier asked about the scope of the upcoming grant opportunity. Ms. Murphy said of her list, not all of the properties are still available, but for properties that would rank high for ARM criteria and on the CFA guidelines, there are quite a range of properties. \$100,000 to start would get them \$200,000 with a match. It's hard to approach property owners when you don't have the funds. Ms. Belanger pointed out that \$50,000 could get them \$100,000.

Dr. Zwaan asked if the fund had already been established. Ms. Murphy said yes, and it has about \$6,000 in it.

Mr. Stevens asked if they could start a bond for \$350,000.

Mr. Dean said that when capital projects borrow money, they have to spend a certain amount of the proceeds within a specific amount of time. Even though it's a 1.6% rate, the town can't comply with arbitrage if they're not spending that money, 50% in 12 months; that's according to the new arbitrage rules, passed in 2013. An SRF loan is different. For a straight borrowing, they go through these conversations every year with Bond Council. Ms. Chester said there's a difference between authorized and unissued. The clock starts running when you start the project. Mr. Dean said they could authorize \$350,000 of bonding authority and it could stay on the books, but the clock starts ticking when they actually borrow it. Still, it's not a good idea to have a lot of authorized unissued debt. Mr. Clement said they'd bonded \$700,000 for Kingston Road and still haven't done anything. Mr. Dean said that was a straight appropriation with a grant match, a lapsing appropriation extended through 2021. No bonds were issued.

MOTION: Mr. Kelly moved to put \$50,000 in the Conservation Fund and look again at strategy next year. Ms. Canada seconded. All were in favor.

4. Fire

Chief Comeau was present to discuss the Fire Department CIP.

a. Communications

Ms. Rowan said the subcommittee supports the CIP item, which is a continuation of the Public Safety Communications System buildout. This work should eliminate blackout areas where Police and Fire are unable to make calls from inside buildings.

Chief Comeau said this is phase 2 of the radio project; phase 1 was to establish base radio communications with \$150,000 from the last CIP, which should be up and running next week. This would give a second transmit site to get communications back to dispatch. It would cover all Police and Fire. Ms. Rowan added that the area to be covered includes a number of elderly and assisted living facilities. Mr. Stevens said that last year, the request was for \$73,000. Why the 5% change? Chief Comeau said there was inflation and an increase for climbers. If this passes the vote, they would get it up September/October next year. For phase 3, the Economic Development Director negotiated them a place on a prospective cell tower. They're not planning to ask the town for that, because even the equipment is included.

MOTION: Ms. Rowan moved that the committee approve the communications repeater site for \$78,792 as proposed in the CIP. Ms. Belanger seconded. All were in favor.

b. Vehicle

Ms. Rowan said the subcommittee felt the vehicle request for \$58,352 was premature. The current vehicle is in good shape and has fewer than 100,000 miles, which is less than 10,000 per year. Chief Comeau said this was the replacement of Car 2, a current emergency vehicle with a unique role. It serves as the operations center in an emergency. They've always had both Assistant Chief vehicles set up this way, since there is often more than one incident in town at the same time. This vehicle needs to be reliable and on the road quickly. For these vehicles, it's not the mileage, it's the running hours that wear the trucks down. The vehicle requested is a Ford F250. Ford takes a break after the first of the year on building these trucks, so if approved in March it wouldn't be in service until next September, and by that time this vehicle will have well over 100,000 miles. They use it every day and it's 10 years old.

He said there's also concern that what's coming next year for the Fire CIP will create a big problem. Next year they will be requesting two vehicles, one at \$58,000 and one at \$41,000, and \$300,000 to replace the air packs. Daniel Gray said that looking at the Inspector vehicle replacement in 2021, that vehicle has 40,000 miles and is only 8 years old. They may be saying to defer that next year. They're much more apt to say that breathing apparatus and other large equipment is critical. The subcommittee's recommendation was that given the overall budget, this is a vehicle that will likely make it another year or year and a half. Mr. Kelly asked if they'd seen the vehicle, and Ms. Rowan said yes, and it looked to be in excellent condition. Chief Comeau said that if it doesn't get replaced, they will need an adjustment in the maintenance budget. A number of things will need to be replaced for this vehicle. Mr. Kelly said that could be adjusted by the Select Board.

MOTION: Ms. Rowan moved to disapprove the Fire Department Car 2 replacement at \$58,352. Daniel Gray seconded. All were in favor.

5. Parks and Rec

Greg Bisson was present to discuss the Parks and Rec CIP.

a. Vehicles

Mr. Bisson said that regarding their request for an ADA-compliant van, Parks and Rec is confident with tabling this request until they have a situation that requires it. They're talking to other vendors that the town supports with the Transportation Fund about alternatives.

MOTION: Mr. Clement moved not to recommend the purchase of an ADA accessible van for the Rec Department. Ms. Grazier seconded. Mr. Clement amended the motion to include "per the director." Ms. Canada seconded the amended motion. Mr. Stevens asked why Parks and Rec was tabling this request, and Mr. Bisson said they can use a Meals on Wheels van. This isn't the year for this budget item. All were in favor.

Mr. Bisson said they need a tractor mainly in the summertime and spring for supplemental mowing, moving playground chips, and small park projects. They currently own a 1999 John Deere which is inefficient to use and a maintenance nightmare. If they get a new tractor, the DPW could equip it with snow removal equipment for sidewalks in the wintertime. It would be stored at Public Works in a shelter, unlike the current one which is stored outside. Ms. Canada said the subcommittee supports this.

Mr. Clement said that Parks and Rec is planning to accommodate what the DPW wants to do with it, but he's not sure that it's a good idea for another department to use it when they haven't made a case for it. That's not the intent of a Parks tractor. Mr. Bisson said it would be stored at Public Works, but Parks would be primarily responsible. Mr. Clement said the use would put an extra strain on this piece of equipment and give it a shorter life span. Mr. Bisson said Public Works comes through and plows their driveway, but there's an abutter that put up a fence, so they have to be systematic about clearing the parking lot to maximize parking.

Mr. Kelly pointed out that they only use the current tractor about 80 hours a year. Mr. Bisson said they would use it more if it were functional. Mr. Kelly asked if they've looked into contract services where the contractor would have their own vehicle. Mr. Bisson said he would be open to it, but it would increase the Contract Services line. They may not come out for an hour or two without charging an arm and a leg. Mr. Kelly said even at \$100/hr, that's only \$8,000

a year, which could buy them some time. Dr. Zwaan said that a tractor could last 10 years, and \$8,000 over 10 years is \$80,000. Mr. Kelly agreed that it's not a long term solution. Nicholas Gray suggested that rather than pay a contractor, they could just rent the vehicle and do the work in-house. Rental for 40 days at \$250/day would be less than the cost here. Mr. Bisson said he could work with Jay Perkins on a proposal for next year if that was their preference.

Mr. Stevens asked if this is their only tractor, and Mr. Bisson said yes, and they would use it more than 80 hours if it worked. Mr. Stevens said it's a need. He doesn't like the DPW using it. Mr. Clement said a tractor with mowing equipment would do better mowing Holland Way. Mr. Dean said he likes the idea of it being used in multiple departments, which would make it used more consistently.

MOTION: Dr. Zwaan moved to approve and recommend \$58,000 to replace the John Deere Tractor. Ms. Belanger seconded. Mr. Kelly said it all comes out of the General Fund, so it's probably fine. They should monitor usage of this equipment by each department. Nicholas Gray and Daniel Gray voted nay, and the motion passed 8-2-0.

Mr. Dean said the total for vehicles recommended is \$147,872; not including the Police vehicles in the operating budget, it's \$77,955. The Police vehicles are Car 7, a Ford Hybrid Interceptor, and the Detective vehicle, a Ford Explorer, at \$45,895 and \$32,060. Ms. Rowan said the subcommittee recommended both vehicles. Daniel Gray said neither vehicle is guaranteed to pass inspection. Mr. Kelly said the Police manage their vehicles budget appropriately, and these are reasonable asks.

MOTION: Ms. Rowan moved to support the purchase of the Ford Interceptor at \$45,895 and the Ford Explorer at \$32,060. Daniel Gray seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Stevens pointed out that they didn't approve the leases. Mr. Kelly said that in Vehicle Replacement in the General Fund Budget, Lease Purchases are at \$416,907.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved the Lease Purchases for Vehicle Replacement in the General Fund Budget at \$416,907. Ms. Rowan seconded. All were in favor.

b. Park Improvement Fund

Mr. Bisson said the Parks Improvement Fund was established last year at \$100,000. Looking at the sheet, some projects were not completed, but the list includes the tennis court resurfacing, Townhouse Common fence, Gilman Park Pavilion Design, the ADA Pool Lift, Town Dock Expansion, Kid's Park, Gilman Park Pavilion Construction. From the impact fees, they have the pool upgrades, pickleball lines, Gilman Park Ball Field Fence, Recreation Park Irrigation modifications, the Kid's Park Renovation, and the Gilman Park Pavilion Construction. (Some projects pulled from each side.)

In 2020, they are asking for \$125,000, because \$100,000 doesn't go very far. Regarding the Gale Park renovations, it was last renovated in 1983, and the landscaping shows it. It's a memorial park, and it means a lot to the veterans. This would cost \$34,000. Pool resurfacing and safety cover: the pool should be resurfaced every five years, and it's now going on six. It's starting to chip. They're adding a safety cover, which prevents debris in the pool, so they will be able to reuse the water. Right now, they dump 200,000 gallons of water to clean out the pool. A cover would also protect the town from liability. They also want to do the Townhouse Common

fencing, second phase, from Bow Street up to Court. They will do phase 1 of Park Street Common; this is a heavily used park, where the militia used to meet, and softball uses it. The turf has deteriorated there. Regarding water fountains, the goal is to be sustainable; these will be low flow, and will encourage people to fill reusable water bottles. These projects would be \$120,400 total. The subcommittee has recommended waiting on Gale Park and the water fountains. Dr. Zwaan said without those pieces, the cost would be \$72,000. This is not the year to do Gale Park. Ms. Grazier said water fountains are a small part of this picture, but are used on a daily basis by hundreds of kids during the summer. Mr. Bisson said the water fountains are \$4,800 each.

Mr. Clement said that many parks have fallen into disrepair. He wants to spend money on places like Gale Park, not building a Gilman Park Pavilion. Mr. Bisson said the pavilion was written into the Gilman Park management plan to enhance the park and draw more people. This was an agreement by SELT and the Select Board. Mr. Dean explained that they acquired Gilman Park from the trustees, subject to an easement held by SELT. The management plan included a pavilion. They got to it this year with \$125,000 available, and SELT gave permission to move ahead in June of this year. Mr. Clement countered that it was a waste of funds.

Mr. Stevens said they could pick a number or level of work, rather than choosing projects to fund. That's how they handled the DPW maintenance budget of \$100,000 several years ago, they did not micromanage it.

Ms. Canada said the funding would be at \$86,400 with the fountains.

MOTION: Ms. Canada moved to approve \$86,400 for the Parks Improvement Fund. Ms. Belanger seconded. Mr. Clement said he'd like to keep it at \$100,000. Ms. Canada amended her motion to \$100,000. Ms. Belanger amended her second. All were in favor.

Ms. Chester stated that the total for Warrant Articles is at \$796,664.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve the Warrant Articles total of \$796,664. Ms. Rowan seconded. Mr. Clement said that every \$100,000 is 4 cents on the tax rate. If everything passed, on his \$336,000 house, there would be a tax increase of \$107 on the tax bill. Mr. Clement and Nicholas Gray voted nay, and the motion passed 8-2-0.

c. Borrowing Other: Parks and Rec Renovation/Expansion.

Stephanie Papakonstantis, the Chair of the Rec Advisory Committee, was present to talk about the Rec Park Expansion.

Ms. Papkonstantis read the newly created mission statement for the department: *The Exeter Parks and Recreation Department is committed to offering diverse leisure activities to meet the interests of our residents. Our purpose is to provide a variety of safe, affordable programs to develop personal enrichment, promote enduring friendships, make accessible recreational use of the environment, and provide fitness-related activities for all age groups. In this capacity, we hope to improve the quality of life for all our residents, physically, socially, and intellectually, thereby nurturing the health and cohesiveness of our community.*

Mr. Bisson that in the past year, they've crafted that new mission statement, founded a Senior Council, expanded the summer camp, held two senior citizen forums, developed senior programming, developed an older adult survey, and worked with Tighe and Bond and Banwell to develop new renovation plans and a multigenerational community center.

The Rec Park project addresses the same issues as in 2018: Planet Playground needs to be replaced, camper safety in rain and thunderstorms, lack of patron safety in crossing Hampton Road, lack of accessible Rec facilities, and a lack of senior programming.

Looking at the Exeter Master plan, Parks and Rec has achieved the recommendations. 1) Evaluate the needs of seniors: they put out a senior survey for input, and heard that they want a real senior center. 2) Prioritize existing Rec facilities in need of improvements. 3) Identify new facilities or programming needed. 4) Prioritize public facilities and spaces where ADA improvements are needed or could be improved. All of these fit with the Rec Park project.

Ms. Papakonstantis discussed the senior survey results. There were 388 total responses, the majority from 65-84 year olds. 118 of the respondents live in single family homes. The programs requested were health and wellness, socialization, dances, and arts and crafts, all of which they've designed the facility around. 74% said it was "extremely important" or "very important" to have a fully accessible multi-generational community center for senior programming. The current senior center is one in name only. It's mostly occupied by Meals on Wheels, the chairs are uncomfortable, and there's no room for exercise or classes. 32 Court Street is limited in parking - only 15 spots are not reserved. It has steep stairs. The ADA ramp is no longer compliant. There's only one ADA accessible room.

They're proposing a park for all, a multi-generational Rec Center. For the benefit of infants/toddlers, there would be playgroups and parenting classes; for children, an expanded summer camp; for teens, a real youth center, run by a counselor at LSS; expanded programming for adults; and for seniors, a true senior center with a lounge. There would be a walking track indoors for year round walking.

Mr. Bisson introduced Gordon Leedy from Tighe and Bond to discuss the park design.

Mr. Leedy said there were significant constraints on the Rec Park site. If they were to start over, they wouldn't put the pool into a constricted area, so access is a challenge. There are parking problems, with too much demand in certain periods, such as pickup and drop off for camp. They explored four or five different layouts, and came up with one with two new fields, and the community center in place of the tennis courts, which would have been moved. They went to Eckman Construction for cost estimation, and it was quite a bit more expensive than expected. They went back to the drawing board and came up with this plan, which eliminates one of the new fields, sites the community center in back, maintaining the existing tennis and basketball courts, for a 20% reduction in the project cost. There's a new entrance, a new parking area, 90 parking spaces with better proximity to the fields, and the 25,000 square foot community center building. Planet Playground is slated for replacement in place. They've created new circulation patterns in the front parking lot to make pickup and drop off safer. There's a significant walkway around the perimeter of the site which can serve as a walking path or for emergency vehicle access to the fields, the latter of which is currently impossible. They're proposing new access off of Fuller Street, a location for a new maintenance facility, and a secondary parking area. There are 160 new parking spaces, split so that there's no one large lot, and it will still feel like a park. This is a project that the town can be proud of.

Brad Prescott from Banwell Architects spoke about the building design.

Mr. Prescott said the building will have a flat rather than a sloped roof, for a \$400,000 savings. The gym/multipurpose room would be a double-height space, with classroom spaces and support spaces around the perimeter. There's a low flat roof for utilities. It has a strong main

entrance. The design looks for a balance between meeting the needs of the program, creating a resilient building, having an identity in keeping with Exeter, and a reasonable cost.

For the floor plan, there would be a separation between the senior lounge and the flexible use rooms. There's a service area for the kitchen and storage. The large multipurpose room/gym would have a walking track, a high school sized basketball court, bleachers for 150, access to the outside, and it's serviced by the kitchen, which is important to Meals on Wheels.

In creating this plan, Mr. Bisson and Ms. Roy worked with them to determine the minimum things for the building to function properly, needs, recommendations, and wants. With all the wants, the building was 37,000 square feet, which was too expensive. They reduced the plan to essentials, and it's now a 25,000 square foot building. Bathrooms are accessible from inside and outside, and can be locked off from the rest of the building for after hours access.

Ms. Papakonstantis said they want to be as sustainable as possible. At some point they can put in solar panels and use LED lighting, everything is designed to be wired and ready. Mr. Bisson added that Revision Energy and Until are interested in partnering on sustainable initiatives.

Mr. Bisson discussed the total project cost. The building is \$6,397,500. The earthwork and sitework are \$3,008,750; it will take 45,000 yards of fill to level the site. Planet Playground replacement is \$500,000; the owner of that property is willing to sell or sign a 50 year lease. Additional hard costs are \$1.2M, soft costs are \$1.5M, for a total cost of \$12,704,600 over 12 years. If approved in March 2020, the construction timeline would have the groundbreaking of the building in spring 2021 and the building would be complete in spring 2022.

They considered phasing, but there's not a lot of cost savings to phase the project. They can't finish phase 1 until phase 2 is complete, as there would be drainage and finish work that would need to wait.

There are options for project cost offsets: they can sell naming rights; they now have a 501C3 group that can solicit tax-deductible donations; grants are available; they could raise programming fees; they can sell 32 Court Street; they can raise impact fees; SST can help with construction of certain structures; and private/public partnerships can contribute. Nicholas Gray asked how much of the potential offsets would be in stone before the project goes before the voters. Mr. Bisson said it's hard to get contributions until there's tangible town support.

Mr. Clement asked why they feel this is the right site for the Rec Building, if there's an earthwork/site cost of \$3 million. Mr. Kelly asked if they had considered buying 20 acres of land somewhere on Kingston Road. Mr. Bisson said that acreage in Exeter is expensive. Since they made the original proposal, there has been a 24% increase in costs. That proposal included \$1.9M for sitework, now it would be \$2.4M with the 24% increase, so this proposal is not far off. The town owns the property. The \$3M is not just for sitework for the building, it includes the sitework for the fields and parking as well. The sitework will fix the drainage problem and improve the park.

Mr. Bisson said they moved into the building on Court Street in 1959, and it doesn't meet the needs of the current climate. Ms. Canada asked if the project would allow the town to sell the Court Street buildings. Mr. Bisson said it's up to the Select Board to decide what to do with it.

Mr. Stevens asked if they would need additional staffing. Mr. Bisson said they have enough recreational staff to keep increasing programming. If they increase programs that are

fee-generating, that could pay for hiring part-timers. The programs pay for themselves. They can also reallocate current spending in a more thoughtful way. An afterschool program could generate over \$200,000 a year.

Mr. Stevens asked if they gave naming rights, would the town residents be competing with the namer for the use of the fields. Mr. Bisson said it would just be the name on the building or fields. This is Land and Water Conservation property, so no one but the town and the government can determine what happens on the property. They have to keep the fields open for general public.

Ms. Belanger asked if they could do voting at the new Rec Building. Mr. Bisson said yes, it could be a true community building, and not under the SAU purview. They could have the election or even deliberative session there, as well as special events that would have gone into Town Hall.

Daniel Gray asked about annual upkeep costs. Mr. Bisson said the field is not much more of a burden, they're only adding one athletic field. The new building will be more efficient than the current Rec Building or Senior Center. They're not air conditioning the gym, they're using a dehumidification system that will be less expensive. There will be low flow toilets. There could actually be a cost savings. They will repurpose everything from the current location, including furniture.

Dr. Zwaan asked if this proposal includes refurbishing the pool building. Mr. Bisson said no, they wanted to focus on new facilities. Pool refurbishing is another project that SST may be able to help with. Dr. Zwaan asked if this would allow the summer program to expand. Mr. Bisson said they could accommodate 100-150 more kids.

Mr. Dean said he ran scenarios with a 10, 15, or 20 year bond. With a 10 year note, \$12.7M principal, and interest of 1.62%, in the first year it would be a \$191 increase for a \$300,000 home. Over 15 years, it would average \$137 for a \$300K home, but interest goes up by \$1M. Over 20 years, the interest is over \$1M more, with a 2.6% rate, but a \$111 average payment. They typically look at a 20 year bond, but the wild card is the offsets for this project, they don't know the final number. He likes the 10 year spread here, which has the lowest interest cost and rate, but they could consider 15 years.

Mr. Kelly said he doesn't feel they have enough information to make a recommendation. He asked Ms. Corson what they'd be looking for from the BRC. Ms. Corson said the BRC is seeing this first, and she would like a feel for what the BRC is thinking.

Mr. Kelly said without the borrowing numbers, the budget was \$21,343,000, what is the number now? Ms. Chester said the preliminary budget is \$20,463,432. Mr. Dean said they should take out fund balance articles and Westside Drive. They should look at budget plus warrant articles etc. \$20,213,433 vs \$19,605,707, a 3.1% YOY appropriations delta.

Mr. Stevens said that voters should make the decision, so the BRC should move it forward. Dr. Zwaan agreed, although it's awkward that it comes up in the budget season; they are constrained by timing, and this project deserves careful consideration. Ms. Rowan wanted to hear how this would fit into the whole debt service picture. Mr. Kelly said that in the next three or four years, they will only retire 3 or 4 bond issues. Ms. Rowan said this is something people would really get out of the town, it's more tangible than Water/Sewer. Dr. Zwaan said there seems to be a great desire in the community for this. He would like to see it come to a vote for the town. Daniel Gray said it's the committee's duty is to provide a fiscally sound

recommendation. This will require a 60% vote, and it's not up to the BRC to not put it to the town. They should provide a fiscally responsible version. A 20 year bond is out of reach with interest payments. The issue will be debated amongst the townspeople.

MOTION: Daniel Gray moved to put the 10 year bond of \$12,700,000 to the voters and let them decide. Mr. Stevens seconded. Nicolas Gray said he's personally not for this. It wouldn't be prudent to allow this proposal to go forward given what the voters asked for last March. It's not worth it to the average tax payer in town. It's \$150 per year on top of an enormous tax burden, and a large percentage of people will not use it. Daniel Gray said he's personally on the side of those struggling to afford this town. He would not be for this as it stands. His motion to put it forth is not an endorsement, but this is the plan and they should put it to the voters. It takes a 60% vote to get there. Ms. Canada said voters will make a decision. Young families are in soccer, basketball, summer camps. They can choose to participate. Libraries and other resources make the town stronger. A resource like this will bring more young families to town. Dr. Zwaan said he's not sure he supports a 10 year bond over a 20 year bond. Mr. Clement said it's not binding, just a recommendation. Mr. Kelly said they have had a lot of nondiscretionary projects in Water/Sewer, and were forced to vote them in. It's worthwhile to move this forward and have the Select Board and town debate it. Mr. Dean said he's not sure \$200 a year for this will resonate with the voters. Ms. Rowan said people pay a monthly fee at the Y, and they could do those activities at a town facility instead. Mr. Clement and Nicholas Gray voted nay, and the motion passed 8-2-0.

6. Minutes

- a. There were no minutes reviewed at this meeting.

7. Review Calendar

This is the last BRC meeting. Mr. Dean said the Select Board next meets Nov 25. The following Monday, the chair of BRC will come to the Select Board and do a presentation. The Board will start its process and deliberations, which will last at least through mid-December. They do a cleanup in January. There will be a public hearing on the budget Jan 21st. Deliberative session is Feb 1st. Town voting is the second Tuesday in March, March 10th. Mr. Stevens asked about the Public Safety study, and Mr. Dean said they would see it at the end of the year. The Select Board can deliberate on the budget through the budget hearings.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Kelly said the meeting stands adjourned at 10:32 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Bartell
Recording Secretary