

## **Mattapoisett Capital Planning Committee Report 2023**

The Capital Planning Committee (CPC) has met with department managers and reviewed requests for capital projects to come before Town Meeting in May, 2023. These requests have been prioritized and are herein reviewed in the order shown on the spreadsheet included with this report. Comments below also highlight what the Committee recognizes as challenges with two of the Enterprise Funds (EF) especially with respect to capital projects.

### **Non-Enterprise Fund Departments:**

1. The CPC recommends both the Oakland Street and Pearl Street roadbed re-construction projects that would be paid for by debt. These total \$1,437,000.
2. There are 14 projects or vehicle requests totaling \$881,650 that would be likely be funded by available Free Cash. These ranked by priority 1 -14 on the attached file. We have two comments:
  - 2.1. #4 on the list is a new SUV for the Fire Chief, replacing a vehicle that has had two significant accidents and a history of problems that have made the vehicle un-reliable (out of service at least 1 once a month/ multiple service calls at two dealerships to resolve mysterious electrical issues). The CPC is in favor of replacing this vehicle. The Fire Chief has requested that the Fire Department keep the current vehicle as an add-on to the department fleet. The CPC does not recommend retaining a vehicle that is un-reliable and is of the opinion that any additions to the total fleet count should be approved by the Select Board.
  - 2.2. #5 on the list is a new Police Cruiser. This would replace a current cruiser that has over 150,000 miles, annual maintenance costs in excess of 10% of the replacement cost and is not available for service 2 or more times/month due to mechanical issues. The current vehicle would not be retained. The original request from the Police Chief was for \$55,000. The CPC is suggesting the Town approve \$65,000 and encourage the Police Department to consider a hybrid cruiser similar to that being used in other Towns and by the State Police. This would be in keeping with the stated intention of Mattapoisett pursuing a Green Community designation.

### **Landfill Enterprise Fund:**

The CPC is in favor of the overall plan presented by the Health Agent with respect to organizing the Transfer Station and expanding into new activities (e.g. hazardous waste collection). However, it appears the current income stream from the Enterprise Fund will not cover the \$75,000 request. The CPC recommends using available EF funds to support this plan (certified retained earnings of \$48,044). The CPC recommends that a plan be developed that generates sufficient funds to support the Enterprise needs going forward.

### **Waterfront Enterprise Fund:**

The Harbormaster submitted four requests totaling \$120,000. The Waterfront Enterprise Fund does not have sufficient retained earnings to cover these (certified retained earnings \$54,263). This has been a long standing issue requiring annual Town votes to subsidize this EF. Particularly in light of the needed repair to Long Wharf and the parking area, the CPC recommends that this issue be studied to see if there is reasonable expectation that the costs associated with Waterfront operations can be managed through an Enterprise Fund or if this EF should be dissolved. For FY2024, it is the opinion of the CPC that the Town approve the Harbor Management Plan (\$30,000) and any work required to protect waterfront assets (Replace

Timber Pilings \$45,000?) and hold off on any projects that are not essential until we have the Harbor Plan.

**Water & Sewer Enterprise Funds:**

The CPC is in favor of the projects recommended by the Water & Sewer Department. All of these projects, including re-payment of debt, would be funded through the Water Enterprise Fund and/or Sewer Enterprise Fund.

**Bike Path:**

The CPC is in favor of the 2A phase of Bike Path design that would be paid from Special Fund and not affect the tax rate.

**ORR:**

ORR has requested 3 projects that total \$71,000. The CPC supports these projects.

**Shared Vehicles:**

Multiple department managers have commented on the potential need for additional vehicles. Reasons include transportation to training, expansion of responsibilities and department tasks where staff currently use private vehicles and mileage is re-imbursed. Additional vehicles are not only a capital expense but also add to operational budgets for maintenance and insurance. While there are cases that require a vehicle for purpose specific activities (patrol and rescue along the bike path), other uses are part time or occasional and would not require a dedicated vehicle. The CPC recommends that the Town study the need across departments to see if it would make sense to have one or more shared vehicles available to any department.

Accepted by unanimous vote of the Capital Planning Committee March 28, 2023

Alan Apperson

Robert Burgmann

Michael Dahill

Co-Chair

Ellen Driscoll

Clerk

Carly Lavin

Charles W. McCullough

Co-Chair

Michael Rosa

March 28, 2023