

CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEE

During 2003, Mark Clark and Michael Speidel continued as Town Moderator appointees on the Committee, and Joseph Barrell, M. Patricia Brusch, and Anne Marie Mahoney continued as representatives from the Planning Board, Warrant Committee and Board of Selectmen respectively. Effective July 1, 2003, the Moderator appointed John Conte to replace Frank French, Jr., and Donna Griswold replaced Scott Stratford as the representative from the School Committee. Mr. Speidel was re-elected Chairman of the Committee.

The "mega-group" process - the periodic joint meetings among the Board of Selectmen, the Warrant Committee, the Permanent Building Committee and the Capital Budget Committee to analyze the Town's many large capital project needs – continued during the year. The ambitious goal of this effort remained the creation of a comprehensive plan which identifies the scope, location and projected cost of each of roughly a dozen proposed projects, prioritizes them, and identifies a funding mechanism for each. Although the goal was not fully achieved, during 2003 a rough consensus emerged around several elements of the plan which will be helpful in moving forward in 2004 and beyond.

Specifically, it was determined that the new fire stations, the new senior center, the Wellington School renovation or replacement, and a Belmont Center parking solution should be addressed within the next five years, and that the senior center and parking solution should be funded with a combination of public and private monies. Town Meeting approved definitive locations for the senior center (the former Kendall School property) and the two replacement fire stations (a site on Trapelo Road for the main station and the Alexander Avenue parking lot for the sub-station), approved schematic design funds for the fire stations and senior center, and approved funds for the acquisition of the Trapelo Road site. Town Meeting also approved the emergency relocation of the existing Waverley fire station to temporary quarters at the Town Yard. The Town Moderator appointed senior center and fire station building committees. The Selectmen intend to move forward with a debt exclusion for the fire stations in April 2004. The timing of the senior center is contingent upon the timing and success of private fundraising efforts, which will commence when a schematic design is finalized.

The mega-group also determined that other needs should be addressed within a five to fifteen year time frame. These include the High School renovation, the town yard and the police station. They also include the main library, Underwood Pool, Vigliolo Rink and White Field House. The latter group should be addressed with a combination of public and private funds. Major capital needs which are of an ongoing nature and need to be funded as such include the roads, the sanitary and storm sewer system, and the water main and meter replacement program.

The mega-group also wrestled with several potentially promising capital project funding mechanisms, with the objective of smoothing and minimizing the overall fiscal impact on Belmont taxpayers. This analysis will continue in 2004. The Selectmen did determine that, given the pressing need for the new fire stations, the April 2004 debt exclusion vote would proceed on a separate track and would not be wrapped into this discussion.

During 2003 the Capital Budget Committee recommended and Town Meeting appropriated a total of \$6,968,906 in capital expenditures, summarized as follows:

Spring 2003 Special Town Meeting

Sources of Funds

Kendall insurance proceeds	\$242,900
----------------------------	-----------

Uses of Funds

Public Safety:	
Emergency relocation of Waverley Fire Station	\$216,900
Relocate BEMA operating center to Chenery Middle School	26,000
Total, STM Article 3	\$242,900

2003 Annual Town Meeting

Sources of Funds

General tax (Article 11)	\$2,126,024
Capital Endowment Fund (Article 11)	50,000
Stabilization Fund (Article 11)	32,900
Chapter 90 receipts (Article 8)	134,382
Subtotal	\$2,343,306

Uses of Funds

Public Safety:	
Replace police mobile data terminals	\$26,000
Replace fire shift commander's vehicle	40,000
Education:	
Replace remaining High School exhaust fans	\$25,000
Continue elementary school window repairs	50,000
School technology hardware	93,000
Replace maintenance truck and add plow	35,000
Retube three High School boilers	50,000
Town Technology:	
Upgrade Town/School fiber optic network infrastructure	\$50,000
Town Department technology hardware	41,000
Community Development:	
Pavement & sidewalk management	\$1,330,306
Highway:	
Replace two pick-up trucks	\$56,000
Building & Facilities:	
Continue roof replacement & repair program	\$300,000
Emergency repairs to existing fire stations	40,000
Feasibility study of new Highway Department Complex	50,000
Replace pick-up truck and plow	32,000
Continue facility & life safety repair program	75,000
Analysis and recommendation - Main Library steps	15,000
Recreation:	
Replace SPORT program van	25,000
Main Library:	
Replace nine LAN-based PC workstations	<u>\$10,000</u>
Subtotal	\$2,343,306

Source of Funds

Kendall insurance proceeds (Article 11)	\$10,000
---	----------

Uses of Funds

Kendall site fieldwork \$10,000

Source of Funds

NESWC reserves (Article 11) \$75,000

Use of Funds

Environmental analysis of Transfer Station site \$75,000

Source of Funds

MWRA borrowing (Article 19) \$650,000

Water receipts (Article 4) \$675,000

Uses of Funds

Water Department expenditures:

Water main replacement \$650,000

Water meter replacement and modernization 600,000

Replace compressor truck with cab & chassis 45,000

Replace pick-up truck and plow 30,000

Subtotal \$1,325,000

Source of Funds

Sewer receipts (Article 4) \$1,062,700

Uses of Funds

Sewer expenditures:

Sanitary sewer project \$1,000,000

Replace dump truck 62,700

Source of Funds

Borrowing (Article 13) \$1,500,000

Use of Funds

Trapelo Road land acquisition and tenant relocation \$1,500,000

Source of Funds

Kendall insurance proceeds (Article 14) \$200,000

Use of Funds

Fire station schematic design \$200,000

Source of Funds

Kendall insurance proceeds (Article 15) \$120,000

Use of Funds

Senior Center schematic design	\$120,000
--------------------------------	-----------

Total Sources and Uses of Funds, 2003 Annual Town Meeting	\$6,636,006
---	-------------

Fall 2003 Special Town Meeting

Sources of Funds

Kendall insurance proceeds (Article 2)	\$90,000
--	----------

Uses of Funds

High School renovation master plan	\$90,000
------------------------------------	----------

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank Frank French, Jr. and Scott Stratford for their years of service on the Capital Budget Committee. We are grateful for their time, their insights, and their many contributions to our work. We would also like to thank Town Accountant Barbara Hagg for her help as our liaison to the Town Departments.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael J. Speidel, Chairman