

CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEE

During 2003, Mark Clark, John Conte and Michael Speidel continued as Town Moderator appointees on the Committee, and Joseph Barrell and M. Patricia Brusch continued as representatives from the Planning Board and Warrant Committee respectively. In the Fall of 2004, Anne Marie Mahoney was replaced by Paul Solomon and later by Angelo Firenze as the representative from the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Speidel was re-elected Chairman of the Committee.

On the major capital project front, 2004 was notable for the approval by Town Meeting and the voters of Belmont, after many years of study and planning, of funding for the replacement of the Town's three existing fire stations with two new stations – a main station on Trapelo Road and a sub-station on Leonard Street in Belmont Center. The year was notable also for the design and funding of the "Belmont Center parking solution", a plan to replace parking lost in the redesigned Town Hall Complex project and the Belmont Center sub-station by closing the section of Claflin Street behind the town center so as to reconfigure and add spaces to the Alexander Avenue parking lot.

Progress continued on other major capital project needs. Work progressed on a developing a schematic design and cost estimate for a new senior center, and on performing a feasibility study and reprogramming the space requirements for the Highway Department yard. The senior center building committee's timeline suggests a 2005 debt exclusion preceded by a significant private fundraising effort.

And a task force established by the Board of Selectmen to recommend a site for a new library returned with a very interesting plan. The proposal would reconfigure the L-shaped Town-owned site containing the existing library and Underwood Pool so as to accommodate a new library of up to 50,000 square feet and new pool, along with approximately 100 parking spaces; "daylight" a portion of the Wellington Brook currently contained in a box culvert running through the site; and improving area storm drainage and traffic circulation. With the support of the constituencies which would be affected by the plan, the Selectmen approved the plan subject to feasibility (including hydrological feasibility), while leaving timing undetermined for the time being. The Library Trustees are now sponsoring a feasibility study of various library alternatives including the proposed plan.

During 2004, the Selectmen and the capital planning "mega-group" also moved the replacement of the Wellington School into the list of projects to be performed within the next five years. Funds for the schematic design and cost estimate will be sought from Town Meeting in 2005. Other major capital needs on the board for future action include the High School renovation, the police station, the Viglirolo Rink and the White Field House.

In calendar 2004, Town Meeting appropriated the sum of \$16,434,132 for Fiscal 2005 capital projects and activities.

During the spring of 2004, Town departments and committees submitted a total of \$17,276,742 in Fiscal 2005 capital requests, of which Annual and Special Town Meetings voted to fund \$16,044,992. During the Fall of 2004, Town Departments and Committees submitted \$389,140 in additional capital requests, all of which Town Meeting funded, bringing total Fiscal 2005 capital appropriations to \$16,434,132.

Pursuant to Articles 8 and 11 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, Town Meeting appropriated \$2,477,992 in Fiscal 2005 capital expenditures, as follows:

Sources of Funds

General Tax (Article 11)	\$2,208,950
Chapter 90 Receipts (Article 8)	269,042
Subtotal	\$2,477,992

Uses of Funds

Public Safety:	
Replace two police cruisers	54,000
Upgrade computer-aided E911 dispatch system	22,000
Education:	
Convert heating source to natural gas at Burbank School	50,000
Repair window balances at Burbank and Winn Brook Schools	20,000
Replace BHS and CMS computer labs & expand Citrix server	81,000
Replace emergency generator at BHS	70,000
Replace pool filtration system at BHS	100,000
Town Technology:	

Replacements and upgrades to Town/School network	65,000
Continue Town computer replacement program	60,000
Community Development:	
Pavement & sidewalk management program	1,514,892
Public Works:	
Replace 1989 Highway Dept material spreader and dump body	10,000
Replace/purchase four Highway Dept snow plows	18,400
Replace 15,000 GVW Recreation Dept dump truck	45,700
Repair Joey's Park	25,000
Building Services:	
Roof repair & replacement program	180,000
Facility and life safety repair program	75,000
Health and Human Services:	
Replace animal control van	21,000
Library:	
Replace and encase hydraulic elevator cylinder	40,000
Paint Memorial Library exterior and recaulk windows	26,000
Subtotal, Articles 8 and 11	\$2,477,992

Pursuant to Article 13 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, Town Meeting appropriated a further \$1,921,000 in Fiscal 2005 capital expenditures, as follows:

Source of Funds

Water Receipts	\$822,000
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Uses of Funds

Water Department:

Water main replacement program	\$647,000
Water meter replacement program	100,000
Purchase water service truck with accessories	75,000
Subtotal	\$822,000

Source of Funds

Sewer Receipts	\$1,099,000
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Uses of Funds

Sewer Department:

Sanitary sewer inflow/infiltration project	\$1,000,000
Replace 1992 35,000 lb GVW dump truck	67,700
Replace 1997 one-ton pickup truck	31,300
Subtotal	\$1,099,000

Subtotal, Article 13	\$1,921,000
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Pursuant to Article 16 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, Town Meeting appropriated a further \$216,000 in Fiscal 2005 capital expenditures, as follows:

Source of Funds

Kendall Insurance Proceeds	\$216,000
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Uses of Funds

Clafin Street Parking Project	\$216,000
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Pursuant to Article 2 of the April 28, 2004 Special Town Meeting Warrant, Town Meeting appropriated a further \$11,430,000 in capital expenditures, as follows:

Source of Funds

Borrowing	\$11,430,000
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Uses of Funds

Design and construction of two fire stations	\$11,430,000
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Pursuant to Articles 5 through 7 of the Warrant, the Special Town Meeting of November 29, 2004 appropriated a further \$389,140 in Fiscal 2005 capital expenditures, as follows:

Source of Funds

Kendall Insurance Proceeds	\$279,440
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Uses of Funds

Purchase of modular units behind Belmont High School (STM Article 5)	279,440
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Source of Funds

Free cash	\$109,700
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Uses of Funds

School building emergency elevator repairs (STM Article 6)	\$97,000
Town Hall telephone system (STM Article 7)	12,700

Subtotal	\$109,700
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Subtotal, Articles 4-7 of November 29, 2004 STM	\$389,140
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Total Sources and Uses of Funds	\$16,434,132
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The Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank Anne Marie Mahoney for her service on the Capital Budget Committee and for her many years of outstanding service to the Town of Belmont in a variety of important capacities. 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