

Minutes Holden Finance Committee, March 26, 2024, Senior Center  
Discussion of a Capital Exclusion Warrant Article

Members Present: Paul Challenger, Chris Lucchesi, Al Berg, Dave White, Jane Titcomb, Stephanie Adams, Donna Wallace, Sarah Concannon, Marilyn Foley

Also Present: Peter Lukes, Town Manager, John Woodsmall, DPW Director, Jon Krol, WRSD Deputy Superintendent, Jana Brennan, WRSDC (Holden Rep), Mark Wilde WRSD Facilities Manager, Tim Sherblom, Police Chief

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

The Committee discussed what items to include in a capital exclusion. WRHS debt of approximately \$670,000.00 has been retired, lowering debt excluded revenue. This amount is being considered for a capital exclusion. After much discussion Dave offered a motion. A motion by Dave 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris to use \$650,000.00 in a capital exclusion for repairs and upgrades to Holden schools. Chris offered an amendment to use \$620,000.00 for the exclusion to include: \$200,000.00 to finish Dawson modular project, \$200,00.00 to upgrade school playgrounds, \$220,000.00 for security monitoring of schools was voted in favor 7-2 (opposed Al, Marilyn). A motion by Dave 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris to approve using \$60,000 towards a study to improve the Senior Center parking lot was voted in favor 7-2 (opposed Al, Marilyn). Peter will check to see if this would be appropriate to be included in a capital exclusion. A motion by Jane 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al to use \$250,000.00 for the repair of the library windows was withdrawn because the library has applied for a grant for the repairs and making the Town's share contingent upon a ballot vote would jeopardize the grant.

Dave reported on the Industrial Drive/Dawson playground project, which needs additional funding. The town has \$1,500,000.00 of ARPA funds that could be reallocated to the project. A motion by Chris 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al to recommend to the BOS to plan a debt exclusion of \$2,400,000.00 to complete the project was voted unanimously.

The Committee discussed proposed repairs for the town pool. Peter advised that although needed, it is not a crisis. Therefore, he recommended deferring this project, since we are already asking voters for a capital exclusion and an expansion of the fields project budget. Also discussed was the Recreation Department's participation in the funding of repairs as that department had contributed to the construction of the pool in the past.

It was proposed to create a long-term capital planning committee. Also suggested was to establish a school depreciation fund to prepare for future school needs. Both of these will be discussed in the fall as we plan for next year's budget season.

A motion by Dave 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al to approve the minutes of March 19, 2024 was voted unanimously (abstained Stephanie).

A motion by Dave 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stephanie to approve the minutes of March 29, 2024 was voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilynn Foley, Clerk