

Town of Buckland
Finance Committee Minutes 3/8/21

Attendance

Finance Committee - Larry Langford, Raymond Lanza-Weils, Paula Consolo, Ciara Hayden, Bruce Lessels, Tim Gaulin

Barry Del Castilho (Selectboard), David Roberts (Historical Society), Heather Butler (Administrator), Martha Thurber (School Committee)

6:00 pm called to order

Reviewed and accepted minutes from 2/8 with clarification - unanimous

Reviewed and accepted minutes from 2/22 - unanimous

Reviewed and accepted minutes from 3/1 - unanimous

David Roberts attended on behalf of the historical society to discuss two capital requests re front sidewalk (\$10,000) and plexiglass window guards to prevent damage from lawn mowing (\$500) in front of museum building on corner of Charlemont Road and Upper Street.

Paula asked who would remove snow from the new sidewalk. DR said it would not be used in the winter since the building is not heated in the winter.

The town received a grant to do an ADA self evaluation which will include the museum. This will result in a list of suggested capital projects. There will be a long list of projects and the museum is likely to be on the bottom of the list since there are several pressing needs.

The proposed walkway may contribute to ADA access in the future, but it won't in itself make the building accessible.

The windows are fixed panes. They're beat up and need replacing.

Paula asked Heather if these capital requests are new or if they're already included in existing capital requests for the museum. Heather confirmed that these are new items. The museum has been self funded up until recently.

Martha Thurber offered to answer questions about the school budget.

Operating budget is up 3.29% this year. Overall budget is up 3.6%, assessments up 1.98%. Capital went down 4.72%. Total assessment is up about \$80,000.

Capital budget 2021 - \$104,683; 2022 - \$99,739

Long range forecast on capital spending from the capital planning group - \$350,000 hit may come as soon as next year. This provides an opportunity to package the next 5 years' expenses and bond them to capture present low interest rates. All the towns in the district need to participate in this bonding in order for it to happen.

Martha presented the capital planning budget for MTRHS and BSE.

We need to approve the projects this year, but we will pay for them over 5 to 15 years.

Heather reviewed the schedule for budget and warrant articles prior to town meeting on June 5.

We discussed how to handle capital projects, knowing that we have a lot coming up in the next 5 years, including school projects and Buckland Rec.

Next Fin Comm mtg - 3/15/21

Larry will come up with a calendar to schedule deliverables prior to town meeting.

Barry suggested creating a capital planning subcommittee.

Public comments

Marilyn Kelsey - There are many seniors who live in Buckland and are on a fixed income. Rec ctr is missing a pr opportunity when they promote the pool mostly for children. It should also be promoted to seniors.

Adjourned at 7:35 pm