

## CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEE

During 2005, the Capital Budget Committee saw a lot of change of its members. Mark Clark and John Conte continued as Town Moderator appointees. In the summer of 2005 Michael Speidel resigned as a member, and the Moderator replaced him with Anne Marie Mahoney. Angelo Firenze and Patricia Bruschi continue as representatives from the Board of Selectmen and Warrant Committees respectively. Also in the summer of 2005, Joseph Barrell was replaced by Jenny Fallon as the Planning Board representative, and John Bowe replaced Donna Griswold as the School Committee representative.

Until his "retirement" in the summer, Michael Speidel was re-elected and continued to serve as chair. We thank him for his many years of service. In the fall of 2005 Patricia Bruschi was elected chairman and Mark Clark was elected secretary.

On the major capital project front, 2005 was a very busy year. The fire station construction was bid, and due to unanticipated severe increases in the construction market, the bids came in \$1.5 million over budget. In March of 2005 a Special Town Meeting was convened and approved the additional appropriation so that this project could at last begin. 2005 also saw the formation of a Building Committee to build a new Wellington School. \$350,000 was appropriated at a Special Town Meeting in February to fund a schematic design for this school.

A debt exclusion for the new Senior Center was approved by the voters in November 2005. Prior to this vote, a Special Town Meeting appropriated \$6.4 million for this project, subject to a successful debt exclusion. The motion to approve borrowing for the Senior Center directed that any grants or money privately raised for this project be used to reduce the cost.

2005 also saw the town begin to divest itself of pieces of property. In February of 2005, a Special Town Meeting remanded custody of the Waverley Fire Station to the Board of Selectmen for disposition, and approved amendments to the Town's zoning By-Law in anticipation of receiving developer proposals for the purchase and re-use of the Station. It is anticipated that sales proceeds from the existing fire stations will be used to offset the cost of the new stations.

In October 2005, another Special Town Meeting supported 2 articles dealing with property on Woodfall Road. In one article, a "swap" of land with Belmont Country Club was approved, allowing the Town direct access to the property. In the other article, 5.4 acres of town-owned land was remanded to the Board of Selectmen to be sold to a developer. It is anticipated that up to 4 homes can be built on the site. At the same STM, the custody of the Belmont Center Fire Station was remanded to the Board of Selectmen for disposition. Again, it is anticipated that the proceeds from the sale of the Belmont Center Fire Station will be used to offset the costs of the new stations.

In April 2005, the Capital Budget Committee along with the Board of Selectmen and the Warrant Committee supported the endorsement of the Library Trustees grant proposal to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners with the understanding that this project is contemplated within a ten to fifteen year time frame.

A Special Town Meeting within the 2005 Annual Town Meeting also approved the negotiated acquisition of the Magsam residence at 303 Concord Avenue for \$825,000 to be paid for with a twenty-year borrowing within the Proposition 2 ½ levy limit. The FY06 debt service will be paid from funds made available by the Capital Budget Committee and thereafter be carried as part of the operating budget (with the amount used as debt for this and 2 other projects in FY06 restored to the Capital Budget for the future). The other 2 projects treated this way in FY06 were the remedial improvements to the ice making equipment for the Vigliolo Rink, and the purchase of accounting software for the town. The Capital Budget Committee does not normally pay for debt with its yearly appropriation; however, due to the unusual circumstances regarding all 3 of these items, the Capital Budget Committee agreed to do so this year, as long as the money was restored to the Capital Budget the following year.

The Capital Budget Committee recently has had something over \$2 million from General Tax to spend on the many capital needs of the town. In response to the intent of an override in 2001, \$1 million of this is used for pavement management in the ongoing effort to improve the condition of our roads. In 2005, for a number of reasons, the Office of Community Development notified the Capital Budget Committee that they would be requesting only \$300,000 in "roads" money (in addition to the Chapter 90 money which is appropriated as a separate article). While disappointed that the OCD did not feel that it could spend additional funds in FY06, the Capital Budget Committee was pleased to be able to fund more of the \$5.5 million in requests of the various departments.

While we are grateful for the funding which has been made available in prior years, we continue to hope for the financial resources to fund our ongoing capital requirements at an annual rate of \$3 million or more. In the meantime, the annual capital budget appropriation at its current level must be considered non-discretionary, and not as a source of funds to balance the operating budget.

Significant capital projects still on the board for future action include the Belmont High School renovation, the DPW yard, the Police Station, the Belmont Public Library, the Vigliolo Rink, the Underwood Pool, and the White Field House. Major capital needs which are of an ongoing nature and should be funded as such include pavement management, improvements to the sanitary and storm sewer systems, the water main and meter replacement program, and upgrades and replacements to Town and School information technology infrastructure. In 2005, the Capital Budget Committee requested the Town Accountant to remove \$205,000, the amount traditionally spent on "technology" from the capital budget and to place these amounts in the School budget (\$81,000), and the IT operating budget (\$62,000 town 5-year replacement program, and \$62,000 for the town/school network).

During the spring of 2005, the Capital Budget Committee conducted its annual process of reviewing departmental capital funding requests. Town departments submitted a total of \$5,513,029 in Fiscal 2006 capital requests for our consideration. At the June 13 continuation of Annual town Meeting, the Capital Budget Committee recommended the expenditure of \$2,091,129 outside of water and sewer enterprise capital funding.

Following is the table of items voted for capital expenditures during 2005.

<b><u>Source of Funds</u></b>		
Capital Endowment Fund STM 2/7/05	350,000	
<b><u>Uses of Funds</u></b>		
Wellington School Design, STM 2/7/05		350,000
<b><u>Source of Funds</u></b>		
Borrowing, STM 3/21/05	1,500,000	
<b><u>Uses of Funds</u></b>		
<b>Fire Department</b>		
Increase borrowing for Fire Stations, Article 2		1,500,000
<b><u>Source of Funds</u></b>		
Borrowing, Art 3, STM 4/27/05	825,000	
<b><u>Uses of Funds</u></b>		
<b>Selectmen</b>		
Purchase land on Concord Ave, Article 3		825,000
<b><u>Source of Funds</u></b>		
Borrowing, STM 6/13/05	3,189,500	
<b><u>Uses of Funds</u></b>		
<b>Sewer Enterprise</b>		
Sewer & Drain Replacement, Article 10		2,754,500
GIS Sewer Mapping system, Article 10		125,000
<b>Public Works</b>		
Repair Viglorolo Skating Rink, Article 11		310,000
Subtotal		3,189,500
<b><u>Sources of Funds</u></b>		
General Tax (Article 3, STM 6/13/05)	1,666,700	
Capital Endowment Fund (Art 2, STM 6/13/05)	100,000	
Chapter 90 Receipts (Article 5, STM 6/13/05)	324,429	
Subtotal	2,091,129	
<b><u>Uses of Funds</u></b>		
<b>Public Safety</b>		
Replace three police cruisers		111,600
Replace fifty handguns		16,000
Communications Center - Upgrade fire alarm signal digitizer		18,800
Replace fire pumper		365,000
Software for Shift Filling at Fire Dept		35,000
<b>Education</b>		
Replace Public Address System		80,000
Phone & Voicemail System		95,000
Winnbrook Oil Burner		25,000
<b>Town Technology</b>		
Financial Management software consultant		50,000
<b>Community Development</b>		
Pavement & sidewalk management program		624,429
<b>Public Works</b>		
Dump Truck		46,200
Lawnmower & Trailer		72,300
<b>Building Services</b>		
Re-point Town Hall		390,000
Re-point Police Station		48,000
Life Safety & Facilities		90,000
<b>Library</b>		
Replace Phone system		23,800
Subtotal, Articles 3 & 5, STM 6/13/05		2,091,129
<b><u>Source of Funds</u></b>		
Water Receipts, Article 8, STM 6/13/05	768,322	
<b><u>Uses of Funds</u></b>		
<b>Water Enterprise:</b>		
Water Main Replacement program		647,322
Replace backhoe & hydraulic hammer		96,000
Update Water System study		25,000
Subtotal		768,322
<b><u>Source of Funds</u></b>		

Sewer Receipts, Article 8, STM 6/13/05	126,900	
Subtotal	<b>126,900</b>	
<b><u>Uses of Funds</u></b>		
<b>Sewer Enterprise</b>		
Replace front end loader		87,500
Replace pickup truck		39,400
Subtotal		<b>126,900</b>
Subtotal, Article 8, STM 6/13/05		<b>895,222</b>
<b><u>Sources of Funds</u></b>		
Borrowing, STM 10/24/05	<b>6,328,456</b>	
<b><u>Uses of Funds</u></b>		
Municipal Senior Center, Art 7 STM 10/24/05		<b>6,328,456</b>
<b>Total Sources and Uses of Funds</b>	<b>15,179,307</b>	<b>15,179,307</b>

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Brusch, Chairman (ex-officio)

Mark Clark, John Conte, Ann Marie S. Mahoney, John Bowe, ex-officio, Jennifer Fallon, ex-officio, Angelo Firenze, ex-officio,  
Barbara Hagg, Management Liaison