

Capital Outlay Committee

Minutes

January 11, 2018

The meeting of the Hull Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday evening, January 11, 2018, at Hull Municipal Building, 253 Atlantic Ave., Hull, Massachusetts.

Present: Kevin Richardson, Chair; School Committee Member Stephanie Peters, Planning Board Member Steve Flynn, Advisory Board Member David Clinton, Citizen At-Large Richard Kenney and Town Manager Phillip Lemnios and Town Counsel James Lampke.

Joint Meeting with Capital Outlay Committee

This portion of the meeting was a joint meeting with the Capital Outlay Committee (COC), members of which include: Town Manager Lemnios, Selectmen Richardson and Reilly, Stephanie Fleck from the School Committee, David Clinton from the Advisory Board, Steve Flynn from the Planning Board, and at large members Bob Cambra, and Dick Kenney. Lemnios said that the committee met on December 27 and decided that the town should pursue a debt exclusion at the May 2018 town meeting and general election. They had proposed three options, which were now presented to the selectmen. Options were:

- The first option was the same as proposed in 2016, and would include roadways, playgrounds, turf field, and seawalls, with 80% going to roads and seawalls. In this option the turf field portion would include a bonding for the field.
- The second option was to structure the debt exclusion question as a menu approach.
- The third option would include roadways and seawall, leaving recreational items to be addressed independently of the debt exclusion. This option could be structured as a specific number, rather than include the entire debt from the Memorial and Jacobs Schools. About 95% would go for roads and the remainder for seawall pointing, not major seawall repairs.

The committee had decided in its meeting that they would discuss these with the selectmen in order to determine how to structure the debt exclusion. Lemnios pointed out that many capital projects have been accomplished by grants, but most roadwork has to be self-funded. The town would go back to its roadway engineering consultants to get an updated plan and information about cost and design options for work on Samoset and Manomet Avenues. He further stated that in the large capital plan done in 2014, a turf field was among many of the objectives.

Comments from the public included:

- Jim Canavan asked if the options would include any money for the dunes and controlling the water in the dune neighborhood area. Lemnios said that they are looking at this area, but it wouldn't be earmarked in the debt exclusions.
- Polly Rowe asked how the town would address upcoming costs related to school repairs and other town building needs. Lemnios said that the school did not get funding for its repairs this year, but will reapply. He said that moderate and minor repairs to Town Hall and the Police Department have extended its life somewhat. He said that the school superintendent is studying the schools' ongoing needs from a strategic point of view.
- Dan Sullivan, resident and Advisory Board member, stated that turf field expenses should be steered toward the CPA, which has already added to residents' tax bills. Lemnios said that there are limitations on the kinds of things the CPA can be used for and a very small amount of the turf field project would qualify. But the CPA can address playgrounds; therefore, the debt exclusion would spend less on recreation than it might have had to previously.

CPA can address playgrounds; therefore, the debt exclusion would spend less on recreation than it might have had to previously.

Many residents had comments and questions about the turf field. These included:

- Suggestion that the field be put on hold until the schools finish their five-year strategic planning and the town has focused on roads and seawalls.
- Concern about prioritizing the field over other town needs.
- Suggestion that proposed marijuana business may bring money into town that could go to the field.
- Questions about whether the field can be used by the public during school hours.
- Questions about upkeep and maintenance.

Clinton pointed out that the turf field will be for everyone in town, not just for the schools. Lemnios noted that for school safety reasons, it cannot be used by the public during school hours. Canavan said that the turf field has been an issue since he has been in town and is not new. Robin Healy said that the Hull Boosters have pledged an amount for maintenance. School Committee member Stephanie Peters said that there will be a revolving account from rentals for annual maintenance. Steve White said that he is part of a group that is trying get funding for the field via grants, private and public money, and donations. He also said that club sports teams rent fields and that revenue from this could be very beneficial to the town.

Steve Flynn, the Planning Board's representative to the COC, stated that the basic element is that the COC decided that they would recommend a debt exclusion because of capital repairs that are needed, most of which are roadways and seawalls. He pointed out that infrastructure is the main concern.

Richardson suggested the that board vote to support moving forward with a debt exclusion.

| | | |
|---------------|-----------|---|
| Motion | Constable | Motion to that this board support moving a debt exclusion forward subject to looking at the three options and how it would be structured. |
| Second | Sestito | |
| Vote | Unanimous | |

Reilly said that there had been a statement attributed to him on Facebook that the town is ready to move forward and do a debt exclusion. He said that at no time did he say that.

The Capital Outlay Committee adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

.....