

## CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEE FY 2020 RECOMMENDATIONS

---

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: Sandra Fife, Capital Budget Committee Chair

CC: Dan Knapik, Town Administrator  
Ken Mudie, Finance Committee Chair

RE: **FY 2020 CAPITAL REQUESTS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Yarmouth Capital Budget Committee has met regularly since August, recently concluded its deliberations, and is pleased to present to you our recommendations for FY2020 funding. Kindly refer to the attached spreadsheet for the specific departmental requests we have evaluated.

### **ROUTINE CAPITAL BUDGET FROM TAX LEVY**

We received and evaluated requests of more than \$4.5 million for 54 projects. Given our proposed tax levy allocation which calls for a Capital Budget of only \$1.5 million, our task of ranking the most important projects was not an easy one. Our deliberations were complicated by several factors:

***Operating expenses bundled and presented as Capital projects:*** Several departments prepared requests for items that are clearly operating in nature. These included the Lewis Bay Flushing Study, Recreation playground equipment, Police training weapons, various small motorized mowers, Police uniforms and picnic tables. We recommend the operating budget as the appropriate venue for these items.

***Capital projects presented in advance of organizational policy decisions:*** Several procurement requests were made by Police for activities not yet approved by the Board of Selectmen. These included the Police training facility, centralized dispatch and body worn/cruiser mounted cameras. There were also DYRSD requests that the Board may want to link to the regional cost sharing agreement dispute. We believe these procurement requests must follow policy decisions.

***Comprehensive 10 year Waterway Dredging and beach nourishment permits:*** Natural Resources requires this comprehensive permit every 10 years to continue their annual

workload of dredging our rivers, channels and ponds. Since this permit is requested only at ten year intervals, we recommend that free cash be utilized this year.

***Level funding of routine capital budget:*** Funding has been held at \$1.5 million for years. At this level, it will continue to be inadequate in funding Yarmouth's routine capital needs. We recommend that consideration be given to providing annual increases of 2.5% beginning in FY2020. We are prepared to move additional projects into the budget immediately.

#### **SCHOOLS' ROUTINE CAPITAL REQUESTS FROM TAX LEVY**

The Committee made several recommendations to fund routine district capital requests. Our recommendations are contingent upon the Dennis Capital Outlay Committee's review and approval of these projects, as well as their commitment to fund their applicable share of the individual project costs.

#### **ROADWAY & STORM WATER IMPROVEMENTS FROM TAX LEVY**

DPW Highway requested \$1.275 million, an authorized 2.5% increase over FY 2019 to support our annual program of roadway maintenance. In addition, DPW will receive an increase in MassDOT Chapter 90 funds of \$170,000 for a total of \$1.1 million. When combined these total almost \$2.4 million. We recommend that the request for Cemetery roadways (\$50,000) be reallocated to the tax levy account and that future consideration be given to the appropriate use of these funds for parking lots, access roads and related sidewalks.

DPW Engineering requested an additional allocation of \$25,000 for storm water improvements which we do not recommend. This does not affect funding for MS4 permitting and compliance.

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT CAPITAL FROM AMBULANCE RECEIPTS**

We approved \$540,000 for purchasing a new ambulance, replacing fire gear and equipment and repaying stabilization fund for 2016 loan for purchase of pumper truck.

#### **WATER and GOLF DEPARTMENTS CAPITAL FROM RETAINED EARNINGS**

Water Department requested \$1.45 million from the Water Fund balance for water tank painting, well redevelopment, facilities improvements and production/distribution upgrades. The Golf Department requested \$267,000 for the purchase and lease of various landscaping equipment.

#### **WASTE MANAGEMENT ROUTINE FROM RECYCLING FUNDS**

We recommend the replacement of windows at the facility offices and the purchase of two (2) recycle compactors. These funds are available through recycling reserves and should be used as the funding source in FY 2020.

As part of our review we also discussed planned major capital projects. We fully support the construction of a new DPW facility and are appropriately represented on the review committee. We understand that the Run Pond Revitalization project is receiving new attention and may be included in the State Environmental Bond Bill authorization. We encourage the Town to vigorously pursue inclusion of this project with our elected representatives on Beacon Hill.

Finally, we feel very strongly that consideration be given to an annual funding article (similar to roadways/storm water) that would support our waterways. Coastal infrastructure repair and maintenance is an urgent ongoing need at 12 critical locations throughout town. Revetments, shore erosion, dredging, permitting, and beach replenishment activities should have a permanent perpetual source of funding. Waterways should be on equal footing with roadways.

We look forward to our meeting with you on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Sandy Fife