



The Town of Barnstable

Comprehensive Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC)

367 Main Street, Village of Hyannis, MA 02601

v. 508.862.4654 • f. 508.862.4717

www.town.barnstable.ma.us

Email: cfac@town.barnstable.ma.us

CFAC Committee:

Chair:

Lillian Woo

Members:

Vice Chair, Ralph Krau
Clerk, Hector Guenther
John Schoenherr
Melanie Powers
Tracey Brochu
Wendy Solomon

Staff Liaison:

Mark Milne
Nathan Empey

Councilor Liaison:

Paula Schnepf

MEETING MINUTES

2.22.21

6:00 PM

Zoom Meeting : <https://zoom.us/j/95492455856>

Meeting ID: 954 9245 5856

Roll Call:

Lillian W. called the CFAC Zoom meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Lillian W. called the roll call.

- CFAC Members Present: Lillian Woo, John Schoenherr, Tracey Brochu, Wendy Solomon, Hector Guenther, Melanie Powers, and Ralph Krau
- CFAC Members Absent: None
- Councilors Present: Paula Schnepf and Gordon Starr
- Staff Present: Mark Milne; Finance Director, Nathan Empey; Finance/Budget Analyst
- Other Present: None

Act on Minutes:

The following minutes were approved by unanimous vote:

02.08.2021

Public Comments:

None

Correspondence:

Ralph K. wanted to thank Tracey B. for all the work she has done in taking the subcommittee notes and for putting together the capital report, she did an excellent job. Lillian W. agreed and that we all join and thanking Tracey B.

Lillian W. wanted to let the committee know she sent the dates and schedule on the community discussion for the sewer assessment. Lillian W. noted the scheduled meetings are February 25th and March 25th. Lillian W. noted the Town Manager is going to review the proposed sewer assessment and discuss the use of General Funds to pay for the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP). Mark M. responded this Thursday's session is about presenting to the community the sewer assessment ordinance and getting feedback from participants. Mark M. noted we anticipate presenting a revised sewer assessment ordinance during the first Town Council meeting in April after getting community feedback. Mark M. noted we're not going to talk in detail about the General Fund contribution; we are really trying to focus on the sewer assessment ordinance for funding part of this program. Hector G. asked do participants have to sign up for the sessions? Mark M. responded there is no sign up needed for the sessions as it is an open meeting via Zoom. Hector G. asked how was the meeting publicized? Mark M. responded it has been put out through multiple social media channels, town website, and Town Manager has mentioned it at Town Council meetings. Ralph K. noted it has been mentioned in the electronic bulletin twice. Mark M. noted we have used a lot of different modes of communication, but are there other suggestions? Hector G. noted the Cape Cod Times and Barnstable Patriot are good sources. Wendy S. noted there is also a Facebook site called Cotuit Connections that we could share it on there. Ralph K. suggested given the shortage of time for the session we could put a headline in the Cape Cod Times. Lillian W. commented we'll find out how many attended this coming Thursday's meeting, and that there will be ample opportunity to publicize the March meetings.

Staff Report:

Mark M. noted there will be another bond issue in March, which is our large tax exempt sale that will fund many of our FY20 and FY21 capital improvement projects. Mark M. noted we'll be getting another report from Standard & Poor, which we do not anticipate any change. Wendy S. asked is Standard & Poor the only agency that rates the bond issue? Mark M. responded yes, we thought about other agencies, but every time we ask for a report it is about a \$15,000 charge. Hector G. asked what will be the size of the bond issue in March? Mark M. responded it is almost \$15 million. Hector G. asked will they be twenty year notes? Mark M. responded it will be a combination of five, fifteen, and twenty year. Hector G. noted if the bond issue is to be tax exempt, we would expect the interest rate to be lower than the fifteen year bond on the taxable bond that was issued on February 9th. Mark M. responded a lot could happen in the markets, but yes we would think interest rates on bids would come in lower. Mark M. noted within this bond issue we're going to be refunding about \$4 to \$5 million of 2010 and 2011 callable bonds, the outer year of the bonds are callable after the first ten years. Mark M. noted based on our analysis, we're projecting savings of \$500,000 in interest cost on those bonds.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Ralph K. noted everyone should have received a copy of the CFAC Capital Report for any tweaking if needed. Wendy S. noted maybe we should include something in regards to global warming for structures and waterways? Ralph K.

responded he doesn't know if we have enough science for such a comment. John S. noted on page 3 it notes CFAC appreciated the opportunity to observe, but maybe it should say only two CFAC members observed, because not all CFAC members were at the task force meeting. Nathan E. responded that the language is now changed to "a CFAC member observed". John S. asked about the channel dredging, and that given it is routine maintenance, is it really a capital project or is it like plowing? Mark M. responded yes, similar to our public roads infrastructure, dredging is along the same lines, which we need to maintain the multiple channels that we have. Mark M. noted that due to the size of the program, we're issuing bonds to finance this type of work; we can't issue bonds to finance operating costs.

Committee unanimously approved the subcommittee's CFAC FY 2022 Capital Improvement Plan Report with the proviso we're waiting for the final FY 2022 capital cost on page 3.

Matters not reasonably anticipated by the chair:

Lillian W. noted the Conservation Law Foundation CLF is getting ready to file a complaint against Barnstable in violation of the Clean Water Act. Lillian W. noted that we already have invested more than \$30 million to the first phase of the sewer construction, and the CWMP has been approved by the Massachusetts Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, and that I don't think they have a lot of legs in this suit. Lillian W. asked what kind of resources the town will have to use to defend in terms of dollars, which would detract resources from the CWMP. Mark M. responded he is not in a position to be able to say how much the town will have to spend if we are served. Mark M. noted if we do have to defend ourselves it certainly will cost us money that could have been directed on our efforts to reduce the nitrogen in our estuaries. Mark M. noted he has not seen a lawsuit yet. Hector G. responded one would assume there have been negotiations by the town with CLF to try and head off this lawsuit, can you comment? Mark M. responded no, not having been in those. Hector G. asked but can you confirm there has been some negotiation? Mark M. responded yes, there had been some negotiations. Lillian W. asked do you know if the CFL has been filing complaints with other towns? Mark M. responded I believe Mashpee was named in one of the intentions to lawsuit. Mark M. responded the intention to lawsuit was named for both Mashpee and Barnstable.

Mark M. noted at our next meeting on March 8th and we anticipate submitting the FY 2022 Capital Improvement Plan to Town Council, so if the committee wants to think about drafting a report similar to last year on this years proposed capital plan. Lillian W. responded that would be a very good idea.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

List of documents handed out

1. 02.08.21 draft minutes
2. FY22-26 CFAC CIP Report Draft