



TOWN OF BROOKLYN

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Board of Finance

Capital Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 3/28/2024, 5:30 pm, via zoom & at

Clifford B. Green Memorial Center

Present: Lou Brodeur, Ben Langevin, Matt Allen, and Andrew Dionne

Absent: Al Fitzgerald

Also Present: Austin Tanner, Gabe Bryant, Craig Barrette, Justin Phaiah, Dave Lee

Via Zoom: Patricia Buell, Amy Genna, Mike Podzaline, Bill Skene

1. Call to order: L. Brodeur called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
2. Take attendance & establish quorum: Members were present, except A. Fitzgerald (excused).
3. Public comment: None
- A. Dionne made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of March 20, 2024; M. Allen seconded; and the motion passed. L. Brodeur provided a chart of what has been requested thus far.
4. Review five requests from the Brooklyn Board of Education:
 - a. Network Infrastructure: This request would replace the network switches in the school system. They are requesting \$138,491.00 and have also received a grant of \$60,000.00. Gabe Bryant is present to explain this request.

G. Bryant stated that the “switches”, the backbone of the network that connects everything in the school to the internet and to each other, are at the end of sale, and the next step after this is end of life. There will be no support or updates, which is a security problem, and we want to replace them before this happens. He said he is certain we will be granted the ERate funds of \$60,000.00, it is usually a formality, so the balance to the Town would be \$78,491.00. He went out to bid on ERate and obtained five quotes. G. Bryant answered questions from the Board members.
 - b. BES Freezer/Cooler Replacement: This request has been on the list since 2018, and the BOE is requesting replacement this year. The cost is estimated at \$18,000.00. Craig Barrette is here to answer questions on this request.

C. Barrette said both of the walk in freezers at the Elementary Schools are at the end of life and have been like that for some time and there have been quite a few costly repairs. He received an estimate today from MCR today for \$16,200.00 and that includes replacing both units, labor and parts, and they will take away the old units.
 - c. Update Trend Controls with Siemens: This request would update the controls system on the Preschool/Kindergarten wing for the HVAC system. Craig Barrette will present a plan and answer questions.

C. Barrette said that the elementary early childhood wing has the most up-to-date HVAC air conditioning that we currently have; however, the system that controls it, called Trend, is currently out of date and to get parts for it is not feasible. We currently have Siemens controls for both buildings and he would like to switch this portion of the building over too so it can be controlled with the same program. It will save on energy and will allow him to control it better. He said he has a quote from Harry Grodsky that if we do it by May 1, 2024, it would be \$34,600.00 and after that date, it would be \$38,250.00. The Board Members discussed this briefly with C. Barrette and P. Buell.
 - d. Sidewalks: Last year, we approved \$16,000.00 for the sidewalk project. The estimate has come in at \$31,000.00, and they are requesting \$15,000.00 to complete the project. Craig Barrette will answer questions on this project.

C. Barrette discussed this project and stated that it is necessary to make pickup and drop off of students safer and speedier. Board Members stated that they think the estimate is on the low side, because a lot of concrete will be necessary, and they asked C. Barrette to provide a more accurate estimate just as soon as he hears back from the contractor or calling a local concrete vender to see if he can get a rough idea on the concrete. C. Barrette also said he can explore getting a grant for this project.

- e. HVAC System: This project has been ongoing for the last two years and is ready to be presented to the State of Connecticut for funding. Last year, the ARPA Committee awarded the BOE with \$150,000.00 to fund complete plans. The estimated cost of the project is \$3-4 million which the Town has to bond, and the State will reimburse 70% of the project. The final cost to the Town will be \$900,000.000 - \$1.2 million.

C. Barrette presented this Capital request stating that most of the HVAC systems are at the end of life, especially the Auditorium at the Middle School, and that the systems will have to have regular inspections as required by law starting in this upcoming year. He said it is likely that the project may be funded by a grant from the Department of Administrative Services would happen. C. Barrette answered questions from the Board members.

G. Bryant also presented a request for \$10,000.00 to upgrade the phone system at the Town buildings. He said the phones run at a very old operating system and there is so much he cannot do with them. He said the best quote that he received was from JKS and he answered some questions from the Board Members.

5. Review requests from Board of Fire Commissioners: Not today.

6. The next meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2024 at 5:30 pm, at which time Parks and Recreation, Brooklyn Land Use/Building Department, and the Board of Selectmen will make their request and any others that we might receive. It was confirmed that the next meeting is April 4, 2024 at 5:30 pm.

7. We may need to add an additional meeting: L. Brodeur will try to come up with a couple of dates for a second meeting after April 4, 2024.

8. Hopefully, we can make our presentation to the Board of Finance on April 17, 2024, which is their normal monthly meeting date.

9. Public comment: M. Podzalne about the Board of Fire Commissioner's meeting the previous night.

10. Adjourn: A. Dionne made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 pm; M. Allen seconded; and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Mileski, Recording Secretary