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Town of Burlington  Capital Budget Committee

**Minutes of the Capital Budget Committee
Meeting of March 16, 2022**

Chairman Adam Senesi called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present – Mark Woods, Myrna Saltman, Gary Mercier, Gary Kasky, Salvana Shakaib and Ernie Zabolotny (via teleconferencing).

Other Attendees – Town Meeting Member & Community Preservation Act spokesperson Shari Ellis

Committee Business

Notes: The Capital Budget Committee built consensus around how discussions and votes will be handled throughout the 2022 budget season. A general agreement was arrived upon that votes on capital requests by departments would be handled as they're presented rather than at the conclusion of the process so long as enough information was presented as backup for given capital requests.

An agreement was arrived upon that the chair would forward an itemized list of capital warrant endorsements to the Moderator and Clerk to be distributed to Town Meeting members prior to May 9th with committee vote tallies included.

A general discussion was held related CBC's openness to changing meeting rooms for the duration of budget season for purposes of allowing BCAT the opportunity to cover. Chairman Senesi agreed to research whether the Main Hearing room had times available. Mark Woods agreed to research access on the Burlington Public Schools side for meeting room availability.

Article #32 Adopting the Community Preservation Act in Burlington - (Passed 6-1)

Notes: Shari Ellis joined CBC to present as a spokesperson for The Yes CPA Burlington Committee. A history of the Community Preservation Act in Massachusetts was given along with figures highlighting the rates of participation by cities and towns in the state. Ellis explained the funding formula that includes a proposed 1.5% property tax increase. She also explained the matching funds from the state trust fund that could be used for a limited list of eligible initiatives that includes recreation, open space, historical preservation and affordable housing.

Article #32 allows residents and voters the opportunity to vote in favor or against the CPA in the November election.

Gary Kasky declared the CPA initiative to be a "tax on a tax."

Ellis explained it's the program's funding design.

Ernie Zabolotny highlighted the potential for the CPA to serve as a funding resource for capital projects already built into the town's 10-year capital plan.

Gary Mercier asked Ellis whether the funding formula for the CPA applied to the commercial side of the town's revenue in addition to its residential. Ellis confirmed, and Mercier reminded CBC that 60% of the town's property taxes come from the commercial side.

Myrna Saltman motioned for the committee to endorse the potential for the CPA to support priorities within the capital plan, and allow voters the freedom to determine whether to opt into a property tax increase.

Mark Woods Seconded.

CBC supported with the exception of Mr. Kasky.

Adjourn

The Capital Budget Committee meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.