

CAPITAL COMMITTEE MEETING

March 30, 2022

1:00 p.m.

In adherence to COVID 19 protocols, the meeting was held via Google Meets. The visual and phone links were provided in the required notifications postings.

Members Present – Chairman Paul Payne, Rich Bradley, Judy Armstrong, Nancy Cross, Tom Shepard, Ald. Marlene Davis, Justin Jackson

Others Present –Joan McCray, Chris Amos, Greg Hayes, Alan Jankowski, Michelle Robinson, members of the public and press

Chairman Paul Payne called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. to discuss budget materials including projected capital revenues and the potential allocation of capital funds for the FY23 Capital Improvements Plan. He provided the committee with a summary of separate capital requests from Departments that had been received in addition to the previous capital needs inventory. He noted some particularly large items such as the Court’s fire alarm system @ \$1.8M and a request from CEMA to address the Outdoor Warning System @ \$4M.

Rich Bradley stated departments included their requests not aware they were included in Board Bill 184. When the bill is passed, the list will be updated creating an opportunity to update the Capital Needs Inventory.

Mr. Payne asked Mr. Hayes and Mr. Jankowski of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry to speak on the status of the Ash tree removal project and what’s left to be done. Mr. Hayes stated that at least fifty percent of the trees have been removed.

Mr. Jankowski stated that there are still 10,800 trees left to be removed and anticipates it will take approximately seven to eight years remaining before completing the program. Mr. Hayes explained the reason for asking for \$500,000 is due to shortage of staff and the need to contract out the removal of trees.

Additionally, Mr. Jankowski informed the committee that Forestry chemically treats 600 ash trees biannually at approximately \$50,000 per year. Ultimately, all trees will be removed.

Mr. Payne presented the FY23 Capital Budget Preview regarding capital revenues including the Half-Cent Sales Tax allocations and projections. He informed the group that fiscal year to date sales tax receipts have outperformed budget and are now close to pre-pandemic levels. The preliminary revenue estimate for FY23 is \$20.2M and will include estimated beginning balances from the various accounts due to the better than expected performance in the prior year. Mr.

Payne then presented a 5 year projection of capital revenues and expenditures noting that for the most part, existing revenue sources and uses are projected to hold steady with notable exception of gas tax receipts which should gradually increase over period due to scheduled increases in state tax. He noted that this additional revenue to the capital fund will provide an opportunity for additional funds for road and bridge projects. Mr. Payne also walked through the various capital exhibits illustrating potential FY23 allocations.

Ms. Cross suggested to the committee to invite Sarah Russell, Commissioner of CEMA to attend the next meeting to present the need of funds for upgrading the outdoor warning system.

Mr. Payne noted can discuss this project and any others requested by committee members at next meeting scheduled for April 4, 2022, the meeting to approve the FY 23 Capital Budget.

The Meeting Adjourned at 1:49 p.m.