

Unanimously approved by Capital Planning Committee at 11/21/2022 meeting.

Lunenburg Capital Planning Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2022

Location: Ritter Building

Present: Chairperson Tom Alonzo, Dave Passios, George Martin, Peter Beardmore, and Matthew Brenner.

Guests: Town Manager Heather Lemieux, Lunenburg Schools Superintendent Dr. Kate Burnham, School Facilities and Grounds Steve Pusatari, School Committee Chairperson Carol Archambault, School Resource Officer Brad McNamara, Lunenburg Police Chief Thomas Gammell, Lunenburg Resident Rhonda Lissio

Call to Order: Chairperson Tom Alonzo called meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., and read a statement regarding the Open Meeting Law and how all public meetings are legally being held remotely, and how to attend and participate in those meetings.

Public Comment: none

Presentation of Capital Planning Requests: School Department

Dr. Burnham explained that last year's capital request for the air conditioning at the primary school is not financially feasible.

Dr. Burnham presented the schools' ten-year plan for capital planning projects. Over the next ten years, the primary school seeks \$618,500 in capital spending. Turkey Hill Elementary School will seek \$15,056,822, which assumes contributions from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), and possibly \$2,200,000 for the MS/HS to upgrade the turf field, walls, and concession stand.

Over the next ten years district-wide, the schools plan to spend \$343,923 on safety film for windows, as well as a replacement mower, 2 pickup trucks, plows, and a passenger van.

For FY24 Dr. Burnham prioritized the school department requests:

1. Safety Window Film Districtwide \$160,000
2. Exterior Door Replacement at THES \$160,000
3. Access and Security upgrades at the primary school and THES \$83,500, \$131,000
4. Upgrade Fire Alarm system at THES \$287,000
5. Athletic Complex feasibility study \$50,000
6. New pickup truck \$68,000

Safety and Security requests:

- Safety Window Film: The school department hopes to prevent, or slow down an intruder with the safety film, also the film is tinted, which decreases solar glare and decreases cooling costs.

Mr. Brenner asked whether schools are still considered the safest place for children to be, and about the cost benefit analysis of the protective film, as well

as how well the tinting works as far as cooling is concerned. Mr. Brenner also inquired about efficacy studies on the protective film from someone other than the manufacturer. Mr. Pusatari suggested searching for 3M safety glass on YouTube.

Mr. Beardmore opined that it's worth the investment if there's any chance of preventing an attack.

Chief Gammell added that the protective film is only a part of a comprehensive plan, and pointed out that if one aspect can even slightly change the plan of an attacker, it gives first responders an opportunity for prevention.

- Exterior Door Replacement: Dr. Burnham explained that THES is the only school in the district with just one door to go through in order to enter the building. All other schools have a double door with a vestibule area. Dr. Burnham explained that the current doors have antiquated locking mechanisms, which cause staff members the need to be vigilant and pull on the doors to make sure they are latched and locked.
- Access and Security Upgrade THES and Primary School: New vestibule at THES, upgraded door access controls and alarm keypad (to match LMHS), change from numeric codes to access cards, additional and upgraded security cameras, additional motion detectors. Having all the same security system makes entering schools easier for faculty, and also first responders.

Mr. Alonzo asked if there is an itemized list to describe the cost of each item when it comes to the amount of cameras, card readers, etc. Mr. Pusatari replied that a lot of the cost has to do with wiring for the project.

Mr. Pusatari explained that a new system will make things like entering the building by first responders, and not needing to know separate codes for separate buildings much simpler.

- THES Fire Alarm System upgrade: New, and additional smoke detectors, upgrade and add fire alarm pull stations, new fire alarm panel and system with a panel interface screen. Upgrading of the system will bring it into compliance with current code, and reduce risk of system failure due to age.

Planning Request:

- MS/HS Athletic Complex feasibility study: current conditions show sunken pavers, leaning fencing, leaning walls, and drainage issues on the track and turf field. The study will determine whether fixing the drainage issues is even possible, as well as adding restroom and storage capacity, and prioritizing what site remediation is needed.

Committee members discussed the age of the field and whether building the MS/HS could be the cause of the drainage issues. Mr. Beardmore pointed out that the development of the field was largely a volunteer effort.

Mr. Alonzo asked whether the study would involve replacing the track and/or turf. Dr. Burnham explained that she doesn't know what the study could uncover with regard to repair and/or replacement.

Operations Request:

- Pickup Truck: Purchase of ¾ ton pickup truck with plow and sander to replace an 11 year-old dump truck. The school department claims to need their own truck with plow and sander to lighten the load on DPW, especially when the parking lots are icy when events get out after regular business hours, and DPW workers have gone home for the day.

Mr. Passios asked if a ¾ ton would be heavy enough to hold a sander and plow. Mr. Passios opined that this request is not necessarily a need.

Mr. Beardmore commented that he's personally experienced glare ice in the parking lot after events get out later at night.

Mr. Alonzo pointed out that a ¾ ton pickup wouldn't need to be full of sand as it's only sanding the schools' property. Mr. Alonzo added that a maintenance plan for school vehicles is needed.

Mr. Brenner asked whether the school department can maintain its own vehicles. Dr. Burnham replied that they are working with the DPW on a maintenance plan.

Mr. Beardmore opined that the \$15 million for THES is much more needed today than it was a few years ago. Dr. Burnham emphasized that by taking MSBA money, an agreement is made to use the building as a school for the next ten years. Mr. Beardmore also expressed his concern over the safety of the school buildings. Mr. Passios asked whether there is federal money available for some security measures. Dr. Burnham claimed the state is releasing \$40 million that spans pre-school through higher education, but no information is available on how those funds will be distributed.

Mr. Passios expressed gratitude for the specific list of needs for THMS.

Next Meeting: November 7 –Facilities presentation

Action Items: Mr. Beardmore brought up Special Purpose Stabilization and ARPA Funding, and how an ambulance is under ARPA requests, as well as capital plan, and that the Special Purpose Stabilization fund is for things like ambulances.

Mr. Alonzo responded that those topics are out of the scope of the Capital Planning Committee, and that funding comes from several sources which are under the discretion of the Town Manager.

Mr. Alonzo suggested adding a minutes portion to the next agenda.

Public Comment: Ms. Lissio asked how much the 3M film would reduce the cost of cooling when it's only to be installed on the first floor of the buildings. Ms. Lissio said she also noticed price increases of two requests since the school committee meeting where the requests were first presented. Mr. Beardmore, who is a school committee member, responded that the information that was given at the school committee meeting had since been updated with more current quotes.

Ms. Lissio also expressed her opposition to funding the safety film for school buildings, and thinks it does not provide a measurable impact on school safety, as it only delays intrusion, and does not prevent it. Ms. Lissio opined she would rather see money spent on the school resource officer program, which, has proven successful in one of the buildings, and practically guarantees police response from an intruder. Ms. Lissio asked whether the town is looking to expand the school resource officer program, and whether there is an officer in training currently. Ms. Lissio opined that she'd like to see more officers in the schools before fortifying the buildings.

Mr. Alonzo responded that the cooling savings is only 5 percent of the reasoning behind the safety film, and that the request has much more to do with safety.

Mr. Alonzo responded that the Capital Planning Committee's purview is to judge items on the capital plan, and that Ms. Lissio should bring her concerns to the school committee to inquire why they aren't requesting more school officers.

Mr. Alonzo asked if the Town Manager had any comment. She responded that she has broken down the capital plan by percentages and that the schools make up 30 percent, DPW makes 20 percent, the Fire Department makes 24 percent, and Facilities and Ground makes 20 percent.

Adjournment: At 8:02 p.m. Mr. Passios motioned to adjourn, Mr. Brenner seconded. On vote, motion carried unanimously.