

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 30, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX, CR 1

Members Present: Chairperson-Kim Shepardson Watson, Andrea Ackerman-Vice Chairperson, Dean Antipas, William Horgan, Elizabeth Porter, Rita Volkmann (Remote), Beverly Washington (Remote), Jay Weitlauf (Remote)

Members Absent: Matthew Shulman

Also Present: Susan Austin, Phil Piazza, Denise Doolittle, Clint Kennedy, Sam Kilpatrick, Ken Knight

I. Chairperson Shepardson Watson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. Budget Session

a. Mr. Knight gave an overview of the following sections of the proposed 2023-2024 budget:

- 2510 Operation/Maintenance
- 2520 Pupil Transportation
- 4110 Tuition - General Education VOAG School
- 4111 Tuition – General Education Magnet School
- 4121 Tuition – Special Education Tuition
- 4122 Tuition – Special Education Nonpublic School

b. Mr. Kilpatrick reviewed the CIP projects:

- CIP Projects: **(ATTACHMENT #1)**
 - FHS Athletic Facilities
 - FHS Field House
 - NEA Air Quality
 - FHS/CB HVAC Upgrades
 - Security Cameras
 - District Safety and Security
 - FHS Bleachers
 - FHS Sewer Line Repair

III. Adjournment

MOTION: Ackerman, Horgan: To adjourn at 7:33 p.m.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

CAPITAL PROJECTS - FYE 2024 (000)

FYE 2024 TO FYE 2029

PROJECT SUMMARY (000)

5) EDUCATION	SOURCE	FYE 2024	FYE 2025	FYE 2026	FYE 2027	FYE 2028	FYE 2029	TOTAL COST
A) FITCH HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC FACILITIES	C	280	0	0	0	0	0	280
B) FITCH HIGH SCHOOL FIELD HOUSE	C	15490	0	0	0	0	0	15490
C) NORTHEAST ACADEMY AIR QUALITY	C	0	250	250	250	250	0	1000
D) FITCH HIGH & BARNUM SCHOOLS HVAC UPGRADES	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E) FITCH HIGH SCHOOL CULINARY ARTS	C	600	0	0	0	0	0	600
F) SECURITY CAMERAS	C	245	0	0	0	0	0	245
G) DISTRICT SAFETY & SECURITY	C	150	0	0	0	0	0	150
H) FITCH HIGH SCHOOL BLEACHERS	C	1700	0	0	0	0	0	1700
TOTAL	C	18465	250	250	250	250	0	19465
Capital Reserve Fund	C	18465	250	250	250	250	0	19465
General Obligation Bonds	G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
PROJECT DETAIL (ADDENDUM)

PROJECT	ACTIVITY/DEPARTMENT
SCHOOL NEEDS SUMMARY	5) EDUCATION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Projects for various system upgrades and replacement at the schools are listed on the individual facility project sheets. However, there are longer term needs to maintain the educational and functional adequacy that are summarized below.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The projects shown on the individual project sheets are intended to maintain the adequacy of the facilities in their present configuration. However, to meet educational adequacy needs in the future, Charles Barnum Elementary School will also require an expanded media center, a full-service kitchen, a larger cafetorium, a gymnasium, larger and redesigned administration spaces, additional resource and remedial program spaces, appropriate instrumental and band program spaces, an art room, a space for the school based health center, and a larger space for the school nurse.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
PROJECT DETAIL

PROJECT	ACTIVITY/DEPARTMENT
A) FITCH HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC FACILITIES	5) EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

In addition to the regular use of the football field by the football team, the field is also used by the Groton Public Schools' lacrosse and soccer teams as well as physical education classes. The playing field no longer drains properly and is in need of upgrading. It will be necessary to regrade and recrown the field and sod the entire surface.

The addition of an irrigation system while work is performed will greatly enhance the continued maintenance by providing timed watering while also improving on the efficiency/cost of water usage.

Requested for FYE 24 are funds (\$250,000) to sod and recrown the field and funds (\$30,000) for irrigation.

RECOMMENDED FINANCING (000)

	Source of Funds*	Estimated Funding by Year						Total Estimated Cost
		FYE2024	FYE2025	FYE2026	FYE2027	FYE2028	FYE2029	
A. Planning and Engineering								0
B. Land and Right of Way								0
C. Construction	C	280						280
D. Equipment								0
E. Other Costs								0
Total	C	280	0	0	0	0	0	280

*Funding (C) Capital Reserve Fund (G) General Obligation Bonds (O) Other

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
PROJECT DETAIL

PROJECT	ACTIVITY/DEPARTMENT
B) FITCH HIGH SCHOOL FIELD HOUSE	5) EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

The field house at Fitch High School was built in the early 1970's and provided locker rooms and meeting space for male athletes and teams only. To meet today's requirements, locker rooms and training facilities must accommodate both male and female student athletes.

A study was commissioned by the Board of Education to determine what upgrades may be required. SLAM architectural firm presented its findings and provided the estimate for replacement of the field house and concession stand which also provides for modernized public restrooms.

Requested for FYE 24 is \$15,490,000 for replacement of the field house.

RECOMMENDED FINANCING (000)

	Source of Funds*	Estimated Funding by Year						Total Estimated Cost
		FYE2024	FYE2025	FYE2026	FYE2027	FYE2028	FYE2029	
A. Planning and Engineering								0
B. Land and Right of Way								0
C. Construction	C	15490						15490
D. Equipment								0
E. Other Costs								0
Total	C	15490	0	0	0	0	0	15490

*Funding (C) Capital Reserve Fund (G) General Obligation Bonds (O) Other

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
PROJECT DETAIL

PROJECT	ACTIVITY/DEPARTMENT
C) NORTHEAST ACADEMY AIR QUALITY	5) EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

There have been concerns about excessive humidity in the Northeast Academy. The district contracted with the engineering firm Fuss & O'Neill to determine the cause and possible remedy for this issue. The study concluded with recommendations for both short and long term solutions.

The long-term recommendation in the engineering report is the replacement of the air handling units.

The initial work for the short-term equipment upgrades was completed during the spring of 2020.

The Board recommends postponing the replacement of the air handling units until FYE 25 and beyond. During the spring of 2020 the maintenance staff implemented an active dehumidification program that mitigated the humidity problem. The HVAC technician will continue to monitor the air quality of the building.

Programmed for FYE 25-28 are funds (\$250,000/year) for replacement of the air handling units.

RECOMMENDED FINANCING (000)

	Source of Funds*	Estimated Funding by Year						Total Estimated Cost
		FYE2024	FYE2025	FYE2026	FYE2027	FYE2028	FYE2029	
A. Planning and Engineering								0
B. Land and Right of Way								0
C. Construction								0
D. Equipment	C		250	250	250	250		1000
E. Other Costs								0
Total	C	0	250	250	250	250	0	1000

*Funding (C) Capital Reserve Fund (G) General Obligation Bonds (O) Other

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
PROJECT DETAIL

PROJECT D) FITCH HIGH & BARNUM SCHOOLS HVAC UPGRADES	ACTIVITY/DEPARTMENT 5) EDUCATION
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DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

While many areas of Fitch High School were renovated in the 2008 building project, the vintage section did not get an updated HVAC system.

Charles Barnum Elementary School, built in the 1960's, has the original HVAC systems.

The Board of Education is funding the study and plans for the expected upgrades. Once this has been completed the construction and equipment estimate will be included in next year's CIP.

RECOMMENDED FINANCING (000)

	Source of Funds*	Estimated Funding by Year						Total Estimated Cost
		FYE2024	FYE2025	FYE2026	FYE2027	FYE2028	FYE2029	
A. Planning and Engineering								0
B. Land and Right of Way								0
C. Construction			TBD					0
D. Equipment			TBD					0
E. Other Costs								0
Total	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Funding

(C) Capital Reserve Fund

(G) General Obligation Bonds

(O) Other

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
PROJECT DETAIL

PROJECT	ACTIVITY/DEPARTMENT
E) FITCH HIGH SCHOOL CULINARY ARTS	5) EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

With the Groton Public Schools' focus on college and career readiness, we are expanding our Careers Pathway program to ensure our students are workforce ready. A very popular career pathway for our students is the Culinary Arts Program. The program fills to capacity and many students are turned away. There is a need for a more robust culinary arts program that can service more of our students and ready them for entry level jobs in the restaurant industry. This would require upgrading of the current cooking/cleaning stations to more commercial grade equipment.

Programmed for FYE 24 are funds estimated at (\$600,000) for the construction and equipment to complete the project.

RECOMMENDED FINANCING (000)

	Source of Funds*	Estimated Funding by Year						Total Estimated Cost
		FYE2024	FYE2025	FYE2026	FYE2027	FYE2028	FYE2029	
A. Planning and Engineering								0
B. Land and Right of Way								0
C. Construction	C	400						400
D. Equipment	C	200						200
E. Other Costs								0
Total	C	600	0	0	0	0	0	600

*Funding (C) Capital Reserve Fund (G) General Obligation Bonds (O) Other

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
PROJECT DETAIL

PROJECT	ACTIVITY/DEPARTMENT
F) SECURITY CAMERAS	5) EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

Four of the seven Groton Public Schools (Charles Barnum, Catherine Kolnaski, Northeast Academy, Fitch High School) are in need of upgraded security cameras (internal and external) and camera management systems. Currently, each school has its own stand-alone system. To effectively address emergency issues in our schools, a federated system of camera access controls across all schools with real-time access for school administrators, Groton Police, and first responders is required. This proposal would provide funding to address these needs and to prepare for the Mutualink system proposed by the Board of Education to be used with Groton Police Departments.

Requested for FYE 24 are funds (\$245,000) to complete the project.

RECOMMENDED FINANCING (000)

	Source of Funds*	Estimated Funding by Year						Total Estimated Cost
		FYE2024	FYE2025	FYE2026	FYE2027	FYE2028	FYE2029	
A. Planning and Engineering								0
B. Land and Right of Way								0
C. Construction								0
D. Equipment	C	245						245
E. Other Costs								0
Total	C	245	0	0	0	0	0	245

*Funding

(C) Capital Reserve Fund

(G) General Obligation Bonds

(O) Other

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
PROJECT DETAIL

PROJECT	ACTIVITY/DEPARTMENT
G) DISTRICT SAFETY & SECURITY	5) EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

As concerns continue with schoolplace incidents, providing a means for first responders to see in real time is highly recommended. Mutualink would give access to school cameras on an as-needed basis to assist in the timely mitigation of a critical event. The system would connect both communications and cameras to school administrators and local police authority.

Requested for FYE 24 is \$150,000.

RECOMMENDED FINANCING (000)

	Source of Funds*	Estimated Funding by Year						Total Estimated Cost
		FYE2024	FYE2025	FYE2026	FYE2027	FYE2028	FYE2029	
A. Planning and Engineering								0
B. Land and Right of Way								0
C. Construction								0
D. Equipment	C	150						150
E. Other Costs								0
Total	C	150	0	0	0	0	0	150

*Funding (C) Capital Reserve Fund (G) General Obligation Bonds (O) Other

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
PROJECT DETAIL

PROJECT	ACTIVITY/DEPARTMENT
H) FITCH HIGH SCHOOL BLEACHERS	5) EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

As noted in the request for the recrowning of the football field, the bleachers are also used by many other groups and functions throughout the year. This request is for the removal and replacement of the existing bleachers for both home and visitors. New bleachers would be installed, meeting present day requirements for handicap accessibility.

Requested for FYE 24 is (\$1,700,000), (\$200,000 for removal of the existing bleachers and \$1,500,000 for purchase and installation of the new bleachers).

RECOMMENDED FINANCING (000)

	Source of Funds*	Estimated Funding by Year						Total Estimated Cost
		FYE2024	FYE2025	FYE2026	FYE2027	FYE2028	FYE2029	
A. Planning and Engineering								0
B. Land and Right of Way								0
C. Construction	C	200						200
D. Equipment	C	1500						1500
E. Other Costs								0
Total	C	1700	0	0	0	0	0	1700

*Funding (C) Capital Reserve Fund (G) General Obligation Bonds (O) Other

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
PROJECT DETAIL

PROJECT PROJECT NAME Fitch High School Sewer Line Repair	ACTIVITY/DEPARTMENT SECTION NUMBER AND TITLE
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DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

After a recent CCTV inspection, it has been determined that an area of the original high school built in 1954 has inaccessible sewer lines that have deteriorated. Lines were clogged and also leaking into tunnel spaces and under concrete slabs. The estimated cost to make the necessary repairs is \$75,000. Requested for FYE 24 are funds (\$75,000) to make the repairs.

RECOMMENDED FINANCING (000)

	Source of Funds	Estimated Funding by Year						Total Estimated Cost
		FYE2024	FYE2025	FYE2026	FYE2027	FYE2028	FYE2029	
A. Planning and Engineering								
B. Land and Right of Way								
C. Construction		75						75
D. Equipment								
E. Other Costs								
Total		75						75

*Funding (C) Capital Reserve Fund (G) General Obligation Bonds (O) Other