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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ADVISORY  
COMMISSION ON CAPITAL EXPENDITURES  
FEBRUARY 5, 2026  
7:00 P.M.**

**Present:** Brad Belcher, Alexander Lepage (via Zoom), Mike Sattan, Saeed Akbar, Scott Crosson and Don Miner

**Absent:** George Austin

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

Chairman Belcher provided the Commission with an update following Tuesday's meeting. He reported that he attended the Board of Selectmen meeting on Wednesday, where additional budget discussions took place as preliminary numbers are beginning to come in and be compiled. Based on those early figures, the overall budget is currently showing a fairly significant increase.

Chairman Belcher stated that the Selectmen asked whether there are any additional items that could be included in the bond package, which is expected to be authorized on Monday at the Joint Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance meeting. He discussed the possibility of including the Spaulding exterior and bathroom projects, both of which are large, multi-year capital items that would likely result in cost savings if completed simultaneously rather than phased in over several years.

He also reported that the Selectmen have asked ACCE not to backfill any reductions with additional projects. The goal is to reduce the final ACCE number to \$6.4 million, inclusive of the \$2.4 million in debt service, down from the original target of \$7.6 million.

Chairman Belcher outlined the approach he would like to take in response to this new request from the Selectmen and reminded the group that sweep funds are also available. The commission discussed the decisions already made, the possibility of moving certain request items and the impact of bonding.

**Public Participation**

Victoria Copes, 223 Hickory Street

**Approval of Minutes from February 3, 2026 Regular Meeting**

Tabled

## **Prioritization**

Chairman Belcher presented the revised spreadsheet for the Commission to review collectively, noting that he had updated it since Tuesday evening to remove the projects being considered for bonding, specifically the Spaulding Exterior Door Replacement and the Student and Staff Bathroom projects.

The Commission discussed projects proposed to be funded with sweep funds, those that had been committed to during Tuesday's meeting, items previously identified as needing further discussion, and four Board of Education projects that had not yet been reviewed.

Extensive discussion followed among the Commissioners, including a detailed review of all requested items and the necessity of each. Commissioners provided feedback, raised concerns, and offered suggestions regarding how each request should be handled, its level of priority, and its impact on the overall budget figures. Various funding options were proposed and carefully considered.

Following finalization of the figures, Chairman Belcher reported that the total currently stands at \$6,168,975. This includes recommended items to be funded through the operating budget, inclusive of debt service.

In addition, \$338,970 is proposed to be funded outside of the budget process through capital transfers by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance, utilizing a portion of the \$553,000 in identified sweep funds. The remaining balance of \$215,000 in sweep funds will remain available for consideration during the budget process, if necessary.

Commissioner Akbar MOTIONED and Commission Sattan seconded to assign the voting rights of Commissioner Austin to Commissioner Miner. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Sattan MOTIONED and Commissioner Akbar seconded to send the prioritized recommendations to the Board of Selectmen on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February for approval and referral to the Board of Finance on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Discussion**

Chairman Belcher walked the commission through the remain steps in the process involving the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance.

Commissioner Sattan MOTIONED and Commissioner Miner seconded to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen O. Lambert  
Recording Secretary