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By Erica Boucher at 3:15 pm, Sep 24, 2026

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMISSION ON CAPITAL EXPENDITURES
SEPTEMBER 23, 2026
7:00 P.M.

Present: Brad Belcher, Mike Sattan, Alexander Lepage, Saeed Akbar (Via Zoom) and Scott Crosson

Absent: George Austin and Don Miner

Chairman Belcher called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and assigned voting rights to Commissioner Crosson due to the absence of Commissioner Austin.

Public Participation

None.

Elect Chair Vice Chair & Secretary

Commissioner Sattan MOTIONED and Commissioner Lepage seconded to appoint Brad Belcher as Chair. Vote: 4 in favor (Sattan, Lepage, Akbar and Crosson) and 1 abstain (Belcher.) Motion passed.

Commissioner Lepage MOTIONED and Commissioner Crosson seconded to appoint Mike Sattan as Vice Chair. Vote: 4 in favor (Belcher, Akbar, Crosson and Lepage) and 1 abstain (Sattan.) Motion passed.

Commissioner Sattan MOTIONED and Commissioner Crosson seconded to appoint Alex Lepage as Secretary. Vote: 4 in favor (Belcher, Akbar, Crosson) and 1 abstain (Lepage.) Motion passed.

Elected Officers: Brad Belcher – Chair, Mike Sattan – Vice Chair and Alex Lepage – Secretary.

Approval of minutes from February 5, 2026

Commissioner Sattan MOTIONED and Commissioner Lepage seconded to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2026 Regular Meeting. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of 2027 Meeting Schedule

Commissioner Sattan MOTIONED and Commissioner Lepage seconded to approve the 2027 Meeting Schedule as presented. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Overview of approach for 2027-2028 Budget

The Commission discussed the overall approach to the upcoming budget cycle, noting that the replacement of the Middle School and Firehouse remain the most significant potential capital projects under consideration as part of the Facilities Master Plan. The Public Building Committee has continued working with consultants and architects to develop project concepts, evaluate potential sites, and refine preliminary costs. More detailed information is expected to be presented at the October 15 tri-board meeting with the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance. While these projects are not expected to have a significant impact on the current budget, they will likely have a substantial impact on future budgets depending on the direction ultimately approved.

The Commission also reviewed several ongoing and anticipated capital needs, including road and pavement projects, the Suffield Street culvert replacement, and projects involving Hickory Street and Copper Hill. School capital projects were discussed, including the recently completed High School HVAC project and potential additional work identified during commissioning, as well as previously authorized projects at A. Ward Spaulding Elementary School. The Fire Department is also developing a more comprehensive long-range capital plan to identify future equipment and apparatus needs and assist with planning for future bonding.

The Commission noted that debt service is expected to increase during the current year, from approximately $2.6 million to $3.2 million, due primarily to principal payments associated with the Town's recent bond issuance. It was noted that debt service is expected to decrease the following year as another bond rolls off. Overall, members noted that the current budget may be somewhat more challenging due to increased debt service and rising project costs, although no major budget concerns were identified at this time.

Commissioner Sattan MOTIONED and Commissioner Lepage seconded to adjourn at 7:13 p.m. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen O. Lambert
Recording Secretary