

Comprehensive Capital Budget Committee Minutes for January 16th, 2026, Meeting

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TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: February 27, 2026
TIME: 11:13 AM

Present

- Chris Doyle (Chair)
- Claus Becker (Clerk)
- Patricia Brusch
- Marty Bitner
- Larry Link
- Jung Yueh
- Aaron Pikcilingis
- Donna Tuccinardi (guest)
- Taylor Yates
- Patrice Garvin (Town Administrator, non-voting member)

Absent

- Deepak Garg

Business

The committee discussed proposed capital project funding and expenses in preparation for the March Town Meetings (TMs).

Light Board

Belmont is better able to obtain favorable loans than our utility, so the town is involved with Belmont Lights capital needs. Belmont light is legally separate from Belmont, and the town does not have authority over the Light Board, but when they use the town to help with loans TM must approve the transaction. Patrice Garvin explained that Belmont is the utility's largest customer and that the town gets a special rate. Proceeds from town's expanding solar PV capacity goes to Capital Stabilization fund.

Marty Bitner added that the middle and high schools are on the time-of-use rate. Claus Becker suggested that town should explore if energy storage (batteries) might be a good investment for the town later.

Patrice Garvin confirmed that Belmont has asked for \$929k from federal gov't in support of middle and high school solar PV buildout. This amount is expected to arrive in January.

Patrice: In-levy debt capacity could be around \$1M. There would be no problem finding projects for that amount. Unused debt capacity would flow to Free Cash.

Patrice Garvin explained that the building committees for the rink and library may be closed at town meeting in June, with their borrowing authority deauthorized in consequence. Left over bond proceeds of \$23k and \$134k were given to the Benton Library and the Beech Street Center respectively.

Chris Doyle asked the committee to read the most recent final report and suggest how this year's report might be made even better. Larry Link and Claus Becker volunteered to comment.

Patrice Garvin informed the committee that the Feb 5th budget summit has been cancelled. She explained that new health insurance rates are expected by February 26 and since that expense is large part of the total budget it is not possible to propose a budget without that information. The town is also waiting for confirmation of future Chapter 70 (major MA program of state aid to public elementary and secondary schools) funding.

Committee discussed various requests for funding.

Currently 41 articles are expected, including 8 citizen's petitions. Six nights are set aside, but moderator is asking for two more in June. Committee was asked to reserve Mondays and Wednesdays in May and June.

Phase one of the path right-of-way acquisition also coming to TM.

Ten revolving funds are being examined. Some may be combined to improve operations. This will also be a TM topic.

As a new feature, budgets for sewer and stormwater have been separated to ensure enough attention is paid to stormwater.

Aaron Pikilingis explained the Community Preservation Coalition (CPC) application cycle. Applications are due in September. Come October the committee decides which applications may be eligible. Applicants make presentations in November. Approval is announced in January. Funding levels are always somewhat unclear due to turn-backs. In March, TM votes on recommended projects. Aaron went through the project list.

Doyle: Scheduling: Tuesday January 27 meeting. Feb 12 and 27th . Thursday March 05. All 07:30.

December 11 minutes were approved. Bitner and Becker abstained. Rest said yes.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 08:53 o'clock. No members of the public were present. No one present responded to requests for comments or questions.