**Minutes 9.16.2019 SB  6PM Community Hall**

In attendance: Karen Ribeiro, Alisa Pearson, John Larsen, Abbie Jenks, John Trickey, Fred Vanderbeck, Joe Larson (joined later)

Notetaker: Alisa Pearson

Selectman Pearson expressed disappointment to Fin/Comm chair John Trickey that he did not work to schedule a joint EC/Fin Comm meeting to discuss implications of the GC grant. John Trickey responded that that meeting already happened, as he had met with John Larsen and Tony Rodgers. No discussion followed to address the confusion of the term "joint meeting".

**MVP New Grant Round** should be announced at by the end of the month. Pelham can ask for up to 2 million. Awards will be spent over 18 months. Town will likely pursue projects on the same three subjects as before: Resilient Community- now Connect Pelham, Resilient Roads-Culverts, and Resilient Campus.  SB Chairwoman Karen Ribeiro reviewed feedback the Town received on the last proposal and entertained questions. She had sent such information in an earlier email.

The state will only fund a complete proposal, no partial funding.

The next round the town could consider more than one proposal.

There was general agreement in the room that the VRF system should be part of the next grant proposal(s).

A high-scoring point is how replicable a project could be across the state.

Grant will pay for oversight. It was discussed how best to do that. Grant-writers will initially be the best-informed, but other people might be asked to oversee.

**Green Communities**

John Larsen informed everyone of the 170K award, which will be announced the following day, on 9/17. He reminded the SB that the project is fully designed and ready to move forward whenever the town is ready.

There was some confusion around how much more money is required to get the project over the finish line. Co-chair Larsen put out the $270K value for VRF and generator that co-chairs Tony Rogers and John Larsen had discussed with John T. John Larsen thought that value reflected the $75K already appropriated by Town Meeting. John T. believed it reflected the total project cost to the town (Total cost minus GC grant). John Larsen didn't not have a printout of the numbers in hand and will send those after the meeting as a clear breakdown in advance of the Fin Comm meeting on Thursday.

The SB considered borrowing money to cover the VRF project at Fall Town meeting, while also pursuing the MVP opportunity to back-fill any burrowing; the board considered whether it would be advisable to add a Fall TM warrant to burrow in order to start VRF on schedule. In order to decide this, the SB needs to know how much money the town would be able to access without going above the $25 levy limit or arbitrarily jumping the capital planning queue. What would burrowing cost? To know this, and lay out a schedule, the SB needs numbers from the Energy Committee: What are the remaining costs with generator and without. The SB needs to know from finance which funds could be accessed.

John T. said he's told the town we won't borrow money, because we don't want to pay interest. The SB brought up other kinds of interest from which we need to protect our children and our community- of which pollution is one. An additional year of fossil fuel pollution through the old HVAC is an example of such pollution. Pearson will be coming to discuss the costs of burrowing with Fin/Comm, on Thursday 9/19 when the VRF is on the agenda.

There were several questions as to whether a new generator is required with the VRF. John T. also noted that the current generator supplies enough electricity to the school to prevent freezing in the building in an outage. He doesn't want to lose that capability when VRF is added.

The SB is interested in Trickey's question, could the old generator be used to charge a battery back-up system. This is of interest to the SB, as this would save the town the costs of a new diesel generator -something no green grant will fund- and help the transition to energy self-sufficiency, or islanding, in a way that the town might be able to begin to afford, as storage is expensive. Further discussions around this will go to the MVP task force.

SB voted to establish a new MVP task force for the next round of grants. John Larsen and Abbie Jenks offered to join. Chairwoman Ribeiro and town super Adamcek will be on that team as well.

SB discussed that the MVP task force will need to consider a smaller ask, because Green Communities was for 170K not 250K. MVP requires a 25% match which can include salaries and volunteer hours and monies such as the 75K appropriated for HVAC, plus the 170K GC grant.

The SB discussed situations where emergencies could affect the above-mentioned town capital needs funding queue. The SB further noticed that now with VRF and MVP initiatives, the town is considering capital costs that also bring cost savings. This is new. Cost savings could be significant, such as estimated 45K/year for the proposed solar array. The town might consider burrowing for such capital expenses, when the systems can pay for themselves over time.

In order to consider the financial implications of such new capital costs that bring savings, the SB needs see calculations regarding what VRF would save in operating costs, and also what solar would bring as cost-savings.

The SB discussed that Paul Fenn and the CCE team could be a resource in considering capital costs that bring savings. This is a new paradigm which differs from painting buildings or purchasing firetrucks. Pelham could be a small community that leads on this.