



**Town of Amherst  
Special Town Council Meeting  
Capital Improvement Program Public Forum  
Monday, June 15, 2020  
6:00 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting  
Minutes**

Complete video is available online: <https://amherstmedia.org/content/amherst-town-council-june-15-2020>

**1. Call to Order**

Councilors Participating Remotely: Councilors Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, and Swartz

Councilors absent: Bahl-Milne

Others Participating Remotely: Town Manager Paul Bockelman, Finance Director Sean Mangano, Comptroller Sonia Aldrich, and Clerk of the Council Athena O’Keeffe

After confirming all participants could hear and be heard, President Griesemer declared the presence of a quorum, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and announced audio and video recording of the meeting by Amherst Media.

Note: Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, this joint meeting of the Town Council was conducted via remote participation.

**2. Capital Improvement Program Public Forum – Charter Sec. 5.7(d)**

Per Charter Sec. 1.7, a Public Forum shall mean a meeting during which more than one-half of the meeting time on the agenda is devoted to public comment.

Finance Director Sean Mangano briefly spoke about the recommended projects for FY21, funding sources and the five-year Capital Improvements plan.

Evan O’Neil of 6 Smith Street spoke about a request for sidewalk funding in June, and was happy to hear that there is an emphasis on sidewalk funding.

Toni Cunningham thanked the Finance Committee and JCPC for their requests for reports for unspent capital, glad to see that will part of the process going forward.

Ludmilla Pavlova-Gillham asked about borrowing capacity and how far along we are in the process.

S. Mangano responded that the Town is in the hundred million dollar range.

Comptroller Sonia Aldrich stated that the Town is at about \$113M.

Ludmilla Pavlova-Gillham asked about moving forward with Jones Library and Elementary school projects.

President Griesemer spoke about the four major capital projects the Town had been considering prior to the COVID-19: a new elementary school building, library building, public safety building and public works facility.

Councilor Schoen stated that the debt capacity is one number, how much money can be allocated to pay back loans; if we have enough of an economic recovery after COVID-19 will be able to borrow more.

Town Manager Paul Bockelman stated that it is a challenge to finance those projects to the Town and taxpayers, and that the timeline is driven by a grant cycle for schools and library.

Councilor Pam asked if the school grant is going forward, will we be able to go forward with library.

Sean Mangano spoke about pre-Covid ability to fund four major projects, the future will depend on economic recovery.

**3. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting**

**4. Adjourn**

President Griesemer declared the meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m. on June 15, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,



Athena O'Keeffe

Clerk of the Council

**Record of Agenda Packet Materials and Documents Presented**

00. 06-15-2020 FINAL Town Council Agenda - CIP Public Forum

Five Year Plan 6.11.20

FY21 CIP FORUM 6.9.20

FY21 FORUM PPT 6.15.20