



**Town of Amherst  
Special Town Council Meeting  
Capital Improvement Program Public Forum  
Monday, June 7, 2021  
6:30 p.m.  
Minutes**

Complete video is available online: <https://youtu.be/2UpUGcloJwM>

**1. Call to Order**

Members Participating Remotely: Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, Swartz

Members Absent: None

Others Participating Remotely: Town Manager Paul Bockelman, Clerk of the Council Athena O’Keeffe, Finance Director Sean Mangano, Senior Services Director Mary Beth Ogulewicz, and Minute taker Lindsey McConnell

After confirming all participants could hear and be heard, President Griesemer declared the presence of a quorum, called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and announced audio and video recording 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 meeting of the Town Council was conducted via remote participation.

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

Sean Mangano gave a brief presentation by on the FY 22 Budget Capital Improvement Program including:

- Restores investments in 8.5% levy allocating \$4, 671, 888 to cash capital
- Incorporates capital requirements of 3 of the 4 new building projects,
- Addresses deferred maintenance of existing infrastructure
- Maintains commitments to roads and sidewalks
- Highlights include
  - \$100,000 for sustainability projects
  - \$50,000 for accessibility improvements
  - \$350,000 for roof repairs at all 3 elementary schools
  - \$4,622,500 for borrowing for the Fire Station, Public Works buildings, Street sweeper and pumper fire truck and chiller replacement at police station

Jeff Lee, Amherst Resident, commented that he disagrees with the Finance Committee assumption that a debt exclusion override will be needed. Lee spoke about the Division of Local Services evaluation, the

Town's debt limit, and tax rates. Lee spoke in favor of changing the timing of the major capital projects in order to avoid the need for a debt exclusion override, stating that an override will harm middle and low income residents, put pressure on housing prices, and drive families and businesses out of town.

Zoë Crabtree, Amherst resident, stated many very large numbers have been stated so far including over \$4.6 million for just the design and planning for two different capital projects. Crabtree asked the Council to remember those numbers every time they think and say there is not money for programs like CRESS.

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

*None*

**4. Adjourn**

Griesemer adjourned the forum at 6:46 pm.