



Town of Nantucket Capital Program Committee September 16, 2025

Attending Members:	Jill Vieth, Chair, Howard Matz, Vice Chair, Christy Kickham, Dawn Hill, Caroline Baltzer, Liza Hatton, Peter Kaizer
Staff:	Susan Carmel, Deputy Finance Director, Michael Cranson, Fire Chief, Michael Alvarez, Chief Technology Officer, Charles Gibson, Deputy Police Chief
Absent	

The 9/16/25 Capital Program Committee meeting discussed several key projects. Chief Cranson proposed replacing two outdated fire engines with compact models for \$1 million, improving response capabilities. Chief Cranson detailed the fire department's need for versatile, smaller engines due to weight restrictions on local bridges. Michael Alvarez presented IT requests, including \$110,000 for computer replacement, \$100,000 for new online permitting software, and \$350,000 for a new cloud-based phone system. Deputy Police Chief Charles Gibson discussed the \$5.4 million project to convert the men's dormitory into an apartment and install new HVAC and plumbing systems. The Harbormaster building project, estimated at \$5 million, includes upgrading the building, with potential grant funding to cover 50% of costs.

Approval of Agenda

- Jill Vieth calls the meeting to order, noting the delay due to technical difficulties.
- Christy Kickham moves to approve the agenda, and Howard Matz seconds it.
- Roll call vote: Christy aye, Howard aye, Caroline aye, Liza aye, Dawn aye, Jill aye. Passes unanimously.

Nantucket Fire Department's Request for New Fire Engines

- Michael Cranson from the Nantucket Fire Department requests funding for two compact fire engines to replace outdated vehicles.
- The current vehicles, a 1992 military surplus brush breaker and a 2007 pumper, are unreliable and require significant repairs.
- The proposed new engines are smaller, versatile, and can operate in beach environments and narrow streets.
- Michael Cranson provides detailed specifications, including tank capacities and the ability to connect to hydrants.

Discussion on Fire Engine Costs and Capabilities

- Christy Kickham questions the \$1 million cost, and Michael Cranson explains that quotes range from \$416,000 to \$419,000 per engine.
- Michael Cranson discusses the capacity of the new engines' tanks, which will carry significantly less water than the current vehicles.
- Christy Kickham inquires about serving remote areas without backup water supply, and Michael Cranson explains the current tanker shuttle system.
- Caroline Baltzer asks about the new engines' ability to connect to hydrants, and Michael Cranson confirms they will have this capability.
- Howard Matz asks about the plans for retiring the current vehicles, and Michael Cranson explains the department's plans to trade in or repurpose them.

Chief Cranson's Explanation of Fire Department's Needs

- Jill Vieth asks why the request wasn't in the CIP, and Michael Cranson explains the department's recent experiences with brush fires and vehicle fires.
- Michael Cranson details the challenges of using the current vehicles in remote and difficult-to-access areas.
- Jill Vieth and other members discuss the size of the new engines and their ability to navigate bridges and conservation lands.
- Michael Cranson emphasizes the importance of the new engines in increasing the department's readiness and capabilities.
- Jill Vieth and other members express understanding and support for the request.

Information Technology and Police Department Requests

- Michael Alvarez, CTO, presents three IT requests: replacement of town computers, Online Permitting software, and the town phone system.
- Michael Alvarez explains the need for the Online Permitting software to adapt to the town's growing needs and improve workflow.
- The new system will be more user-friendly and adaptable, allowing for better tracking and management of permits.
- Michael Alvarez discusses the town phone system's need for an upgrade to a cloud-based system to support remote work.
- The new phone system will cover all town departments, except for airport and schools, and will include cell phone integration.

Deputy Chief Gibson's Presentation on Public Safety Requests

- Charles Gibson presents several requests, including a women's locker room expansion, vehicle security gate improvements, and a seasonal employee dormitory.
- Charles Gibson explains the need for the dormitory improvements due to the building's age and structural issues.
- The project includes rewiring, new plumbing, and replacing the air conditioning system to address dampness and mildew issues.

- Charles Gibson discusses the challenges of maintaining the building and the need for ongoing improvements.
- Jill Vieth and other members express concerns about the cost and scope of the dormitory project.

Discussion on Public Safety Requests and Budget Considerations

- Christy Kickham asks about the financial impact of the dormitory project and the need for ongoing maintenance.
- Charles Gibson explains the building's structural soundness and the need for ongoing maintenance to keep it functional.
- Jill Vieth and other members discuss the importance of the project and the need for a detailed cost breakdown.
- Charles Gibson provides additional information on the project's scope and the need for flexibility in future planning.
- The committee discusses the importance of the project and the need for a comprehensive plan to address the building's needs.

Harbormaster Building and Vehicle Requests

- Charles Gibson presents the Harbormaster building project, explaining the need for a redesign to reduce costs.
- The project includes site costs for temporary toilet facilities and the elimination of certain architectural elements.
- Jill Vieth and other members express support for the project and the importance of the building as a visitor center.
- Charles Gibson discusses the challenges of public funding projects and the need for careful planning and cost management.
- The committee discusses the importance of the Harbormaster building project and the need for ongoing maintenance and improvements.

Harbormaster Truck and Patrol Boat Requests

- Charles Gibson presents requests for a new Harbormaster truck and a patrol boat replacement.
- The new truck is needed to replace rusted-out vehicles, and the patrol boat replacement is planned for FY27.
- The committee discusses the importance of the vehicles for the Harbormaster's operations and the need for ongoing replacement.
- Charles Gibson explains the potential for grant funding to help cover the cost of the patrol boat replacement.
- The committee discusses the importance of the vehicles and the need for careful planning and budget management.

Committee's Final Remarks and Next Steps

- Jill Vieth and other members express appreciation for the detailed presentations and the thorough explanations provided by the department heads.
- The committee discusses the importance of ongoing maintenance and planning for future projects.
- Jill Vieth suggests a field trip to the Harbormaster boats for a closer look at the vehicles and their needs.
- The committee agrees to continue discussions and further review of the projects and budget considerations.
- The meeting concludes with a commitment to ongoing collaboration and careful planning for future projects.

Housing and Department Needs

- Jill Vieth discusses the significance of the housing option at 41 Jefferson Ave for the police department, highlighting its importance during the summer influx of specials.
- Christy Kickham emphasizes the convenience of having all department members in one place, which is beneficial for new members getting used to things.
- Caroline Baltzer agrees that it is good for new members to be together and get accustomed to their environment.
- Jill Vieth mentions the next meeting on Thursday at two, focusing on Natural Resources, and reminds everyone to look at the numbers sent by Sue.

Recommendations for Spreadsheet Management

- Christy Kickham recommends printing out the spreadsheet sent by Sue to better manage requests for 2027, highlighting specific requests in red for easy tracking.
- Christy explains the difficulty of sorting through past requests and the importance of having a visual indication of completed requests.
- Jill Vieth inquires about the readiness of the spreadsheet from Plumb, seeking an update from Susan Carmel.
- Susan Carmel mentions that Town Admin is still working on ranking all projects and that the preliminary list is not finalized.

Coordination with Town Administration

- Christy Kickham questions the necessity of waiting for Town Admin to complete their reviews before doing their own RORIs.
- Susan Carmel explains that some projects might not be presented to the committee if they are not recommended by Town Admin.
- Jill Vieth suggests that the current list likely includes solid requests that have gone through initial reviews.
- Howard Matz proposes coordinating the first scoring session with the new member to ensure consistency and transparency.

Cost and Efficiency of Changes

- Jill Vieth mentions the cost associated with the changes made, which was around \$15,000 to \$20,000.
- Susan Carmel notes that the final bill has not been seen yet, but the cost is within the estimated range.
- Caroline Baltzer comments on the increased efficiency, with Brian being satisfied with the changes.
- Howard Matz and Jill Vieth discuss the importance of changing criteria and the potential impact on scoring.

Trial Scoring and Introduction

- Christy Kickham emphasizes the value of trial scoring together, as different approaches can provide valuable insights.
- Howard Matz and Caroline Baltzer agree that a collective scoring session would be helpful for new members.
- Jill Vieth suggests starting with a few sessions together and then proceeding independently.
- Christy Kickham reassures that individual scores are valid and that different approaches are beneficial.

Meeting Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting is made by Caroline Baltzer and seconded by Peter Kaizer.
- Roll call vote: Caroline aye, Liza aye, Howard aye, Christy aye, Pete aye, Jill aye. Passes unanimously.