

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT MEETING

NOVEMBER 12, 2020

MEMORIAL BUILDING

7:00 P.M.

Present: Ken Jacques, Jeff Milne, Tamara Butcher, Dick Hendl, George McCusker, Peter Lacaillade, and Janet Roberts. There were no representatives of the Highway or Police Department in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

Committee members went through the spreadsheet and noted updates.

Fire Department: Peter Lacaillade, Fire Chief reported the department does not have any large equipment needs for 2021. They recently have taken care of some radio replacements. They are continuing their program of turn-out gear replacement by purchasing two new sets per year. Engine 2, (1998) is the next truck up for replacement. Pete anticipates replacement in the next two to three years. The plumbing is eroding due to water quality. They recently had to spend some money on repairs of that. Pete will get together some hard numbers of the cost of a new truck to have an idea possibly for 2022.

Buildings and Grounds: Dick reported the mini-split air conditioning for the town offices has been installed and work nicely. They were able to be purchased through encumbered 2019 funds.

Sand Shed Site Prep: Work has not taken place on the site. Jeff Evans and Lou Caron were not able to continue working on the project. Dan Nash is in the process of picking up where they left off. The \$100,000 + estimate will need to be reappropriated as a housekeeping article as the money lapses December 31, 2020. The money was appropriated through Unreserved Fund Balance.

Police Department: There was no representation for the Police Department. Dick reported the Selectmen have approved replacing the mobile data units in the cruisers using funds from this year's budget. There does not appear to be a plan to replace any cruisers in 2021. Replacements will be bumped out another year. Jeff questioned whether the Police Department might consider looking at larger vehicles since most of the time they use their cruisers as offices. A larger vehicle would give them more room.

Highway Department: There was no representation for the Highway Department. George stated Peter has talked about purchasing a full-sized truck and has an estimate for one fully equipped at \$190K. His reasoning is a larger truck would hold more sand so Ed would not run out of sand before he finishes his route. They would also be able to haul their own sand and gravel with a bigger truck instead of hiring it done. The Board discussed their concerns with plowing the sized of the roads in Springfield with a truck of that size. Ken stated New London has one and they basically use it for moving equipment and hauling because of that. George was not aware what Pete's plans might be for other truck or equipment replacement.

Paving: Golf Course, Twin Lake Villa, and Shad Hill roads did not get paved in 2019 due to early winter weather. A warrant article from the Unreserved Fund Balance for \$100K was appropriated for that work. Nichols Hill and Cemetery Roads were paved with funds from Pete's operating budget. Paving for 2021 was discussed, but without Peter present, no one was sure what the plan was.

Culverts: Pete has gotten an estimate from Mike Hansen to repair the Gove Brook culvert crossing George Hill Road. Tamara noted she was contacted by another firm about this as well. She reached out to them but has not heard back.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Janet Roberts
Administrative Assistant