

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS MEETING  
MEMORIAL BUILDING

NOVEMBER 25, 2014  
7:00 P.M.

Present: Ken Jacques, Jeff Milne, Leigh Callaway, Don Hill, Janet Roberts, Peter Lacaillade, and Kevin Roberts.

Meeting was called to order and chaired by Ken.

Fire Department:

Pete Lacaillade reported the Fire Department will be researching SCBA equipment in 2015 and push the purchase out to 2016; estimated at \$100K. They are hoping to be able to bundle a purchase with another department to save money. The absolute deadline for replacement is 2017. The tanks have just had the last pressure test they are eligible for. It is not advisable to split the purchase over a couple of years. Due to continuous technology changes it is preferable to have all the equipment the same. The Board agreed to leave the SCBA purchase in the plan but moved it out to 2016.

Pete stated in 2018 the tanker will have met its life expectancy. The Board agreed to leave that for 2018 and will be discussed more as warranted.

The department plans to purchase two sets of turn-out gear yearly and rotate out outdated gear.

Portable radios will need to be considered at some point. Parts are no longer available. The department has 14 radios and cost to replace is about \$3500 each. These were purchased through a grant following 9-11. The department will be on the lookout for other grant possibilities. The State Department of Homeland Security may be able to assist in keeping the department aware of grant opportunities.

Buildings and Grounds:

Leigh suggested keeping the \$90,000 for energy upgrades in the highway/safety building for 2016. The number was a result of an energy audit that was done a year ago. The \$80,000 suggested for a new roof for 2015 can be eliminated. After the energy audit, it was determined a Sarnofil roof would not be cost effective. The Board discussed hiring someone to look at the roof and determine best how to fix the spots that leak. Once that is done, insulating and other energy improvements can be reviewed.

Don reported it was brought to his attention that there are problems with the electrical service at the highway/safety building. During heavy use, such as a pancake breakfast, or the use of the chop saw in the highway department, the circuits keep breaking. The wiring done 20 years ago is the wrong gauge and there are long runs. The Board suggested appropriating some money to have an electrician look into the possibility of adding a subpanel with new wiring to the troublesome areas. If the existing wiring may not be bad and be ok to run lighting and light tools, and it could be cheaper just to run new circuits. The building is used as an emergency shelter and safety issues should be addressed.

**Police Department:**

Leigh reported that Tim feels the replacement of his cruiser estimated for 2015 could be pushed out to 2016. The Explorer will be paid off in 2015, along with the cruiser radio. Tim will have a need for some portable radio equipment as well.

Ken noted we are very fortunate to have Tim Julian as our Police Chief. With Tim's insight into Springfield and the needs of the police department it would be helpful to get input from him as to what he thinks would be suitable in terms of police office space for this community, what size, and what needs to be in it. It could be challenging to get someone to work in the existing space and Tim is very familiar and would be very helpful in planning.

**Library:**

The Library Trustees have discussed a budget of \$6,000 to replace the existing computers. There was some disagreement between the immediate need. Don noted the existing computers are old and "clunky" and perhaps do not provide the speed that students require for their use. Ken stated the library doesn't ask for much and if they feel there is a need they should ask for it.

There has also been a request for more space and they would like to see a community room. Discussion has been that the meeting house, and space in this building upstairs and downstairs is underutilized. The Selectmen have been discussing ways to improve storage for the town office and facilitate best use of existing space. The Space Needs Committee will reconvene after the first of the year. Jeff noted that he would be interested in serving on that committee.

**Town Hall:**

Body preservation/paint and carpentry repairs were completed in 2014 as planned.

**Memorial Building:**

Leigh reported Mason Wheeler has provided an estimate of approximately \$26,000 for propane conversion. This is being looked at for the 2015 budget.

**Sand Shed:**

Leigh suggested removing the \$80,000 for sand shed for 2015. It is possible it could go up behind the highway shed, and Jeff put a lot of work into a plan showing the possibilities. The Board discussed there needs to be some test pits and engineering studies done to see what's in the ground to determine the feasibility of building there. Leigh suggested the possibility of using the area for a Police Department with an access onto Nichols Hill Road. At the very least, the area is flat and makes a good place for storage of things stored around the existing building and also allow more room for emergency services and parking. Ken mentioned in talking to Tim Julian in the past, it is felt it is not a good idea for a police department to be tucked up in back, but should be visible for the public to have access to.

**Streets and Highways:**

Leigh reported the new truck is in but is still being equipped. The loan paperwork has been signed, but the money has not been advanced since the truck is not ready. The money

appropriated in 2014 for the first year's payment and interest should be paid back to the bank since it is money already raised through taxation.

Pete is looking at 2016 for replacement of the white truck, estimated at \$185,000.

Pete is recommending the purchase of a chipper in 2015. Ken questioned the need, and wondered about renting a chipper. Leigh stated there have been times when the sawmill chipper was out of services that brush was left in the woods and sometimes caused issues with some landowners. Leigh noted it is possible there could be a grant available from Homeland Security.

There being no further discussion, the Board voted to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by,

Janet Roberts