

TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
TRAINING ROOM – PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
FEBRUARY 23, 2015 – 5:30 P.M.

In attendance – Capital Planning Committee members - Ron Reed, Chair, Bill Johnson, Duncan Phyfe, Jaime Piedrafite, Noel McGonigle and Tanya Gaylord. Others in attendance were: Fire Chief Paul Rekos, Police Chief Larry Barrett, DPW/Water & Sewer Superintendent Steve Nims, Library Director Emily Donnelly, Town Administrator Doug Briggs and Executive Assistant Sylvia Turcotte.

At 5:35 p.m. Ron Reed called the meeting to order and stated that the Committee was meeting to discuss the proposed Capital Plan for FY16.

Doug Briggs gave a presentation on his proposed FY16 Capital Plan. He noted that this Capital Plan is the fifth rendition which began in FY12 with a guideline of \$450,000 per year for capital expenditures. He also noted that we have continued to reduce our fleet of vehicles and continually assess our needs to reach this guideline each year.

Mr. Briggs noted that the following is the proposed Capital Plan for FY16.

Ambulance #1	\$170,000
Turnout Gear (5)	\$ 12,990
Ambulance #2	\$ 30,000
Ford Dump Truck – Sander	\$ 35,000
Roads	\$100,000
Ford F550 Truck	\$ 67,000
Ford Interceptor – Car #4	\$ 42,000
Total	\$456,990

He then proceeded with the first item on the list, Ambulance #1 which would be a new vehicle. Chief Paul Rekos explained the need. He also noted that they have applied for a grant to replace their existing tanker and also the pumper, with a new vehicle, a pumper/tanker. He added that the pumper would be traded in but that the tanker, which was a converted military vehicle, would be returned to the military. He stated that the converted vehicles are accident prone so this would put us in good shape to get this grant.

Doug Briggs stated that Ashburnham is now a designated Green Community and we have received a grant for \$150,825 which will be used to re-do heating and electrical in the Library after the level 2 audit was done and accepted. He stated that they were working with two companies to get this work done. He noted that the next step was level 2 audits for Town Hall, the Public Safety Building and the Light Department. He added that the remainder of the grant would be used at the Town Hall but that there would be another opportunity for a grant in the future.

Ron Reed asked Doug Briggs to look at the number of towns that have two ambulances. Chief Rekos stated that the Town of Westminster has two at this time and they are both ALS. He went on to state that our ambulance went out 437 times in the past year and 12 of these were dual calls. He also noted that Woods lost their contract in Gardner and is now running out of Athol. He stated that MedStar is in Gardner now and their truck isn't always available when we call. He also stated that the last call they put in for Woods took 36 minutes to get here which will now be the norm.

Bill Johnson inquired if we had enough people to support a second ambulance and Chief Rekos stated that there is always a paramedic available. It was noted by both Mr. Reed and Mr. Johnson that they would need more information before they could vote on the second ambulance.

Steve Nims explained the \$35,000 for repairs to their 1995 International Dump/Sander Truck. He stated that this was their only four-wheel drive vehicle which is in fairly good shape and with the repairs would more than likely last for another 5 years. He also noted that their 2006 Ford F550 is used every day and is in poor shape. He stated that we would get \$4,500 when we trade it in for a new F550 vehicle. Bill Johnson asked if they were better off now with the vehicles they have and Mr. Nims stated that they were much better off and that the Capital Plan is working.

Chief Larry Barrett explained the process behind the replacement of a cruiser again this fiscal year. He stated that they would replace the Interceptor sedan with a utility vehicle which would be more suitable for this area. He stated that with this plan he has reduced vehicle repairs by \$3,500 since 2008. He added that the current vehicle has 54k miles now so they would wait until next April to get the new one.

Doug Briggs explained the road plan with the list of roads to be done in FY15 and FY16 and the revenue to be used for these road repairs.

It was noted by Emily Donnelly, Library Director, that the Library would probably be asking for a roof replacement next year from the Capital Plan.

There was some discussion on the potential DPW building replacement. Bill Johnson noted that the DPW building is the last major project for the Town. Tanya Gaylord stated that they should put together a presentation on where the Town's debt is at this time. It was noted by Bill Johnson that the Advisory Board would put on a presentation before the articles are read at the Annual Town Meeting and that Joe Oliveira would be presenting. He also noted that they would place this information on the Town's website and get it out to the residents.

Ron Reed asked for a vote on the Capital Plan minus the second ambulance. **Bill Johnson made the motion to approve 6 out of the 7 items listed in the Capital Plan, minus the second ambulance, and was seconded by Duncan Phyfe. All in favor.**

At 6:40 p.m. Duncan Phyfe motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Bill Johnson. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Turcotte
Executive Assistant