

Capital Improvement Committee Minutes

Town of Bellingham – Municipal Center

Monday, March 24, 2008

1. CIC Present: Roland Lavallee, Joseph Collamati, Toni Picariello, Mary Beth Cuomo, Michael Tobin.
2. CIC Present: N/A
3. Meeting called to order: 7:15 pm
4. **MEET WITH DPW (This was a joint meeting with the FinCom)**

A. Lake Street Culverts

Donald DiMartino would like to repair the Lake Street Culverts entirely, but needs \$470,000. The ConCom has approved the entire project, which includes culvert, intersection, widening the road, sidewalks, water mains, etc. (See endnote for details per an email from the DPW)ⁱ

The Town does not have the funds for the entire project, but hopefully be able to do the minimum repairs to make the culvert safe. The maximum funds available would be \$80,000, the remaining money after the 2008 roadwork is complete.

Roland Lavallee suggested:

- Hire an excavator
- Get stone
- Box culvert
- Use our man power.

Donald DiMartino would have to inform the ConCom that there will be a change in the project. Right now Lake Street is a one-lane road and can be very dangerous.

Members who travel the road stated that they saw no danger when driving on Lake Street.

B. Jenks Reservoir, Crystal Lake dam and Mill Pond dam on Pearl Street repairs

Donald DiMartino emailed the FinCom the Certificates of Non-Compliance and Dam Safety Order from Department of Conservation and Recreation. Repairs are mandated by the State.

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In order to be in compliance the Town needs to spend \$4,500 at this Town Meeting for engineering.
He will be requesting \$55,170 to complete Phase II of the Inspection and Investigation Report. See Endnotes for more details per an email from the DPW.ⁱⁱ

Joseph Collamati would like information from Marilyn Mathieu, CFO, regarding the unfunded state mandate.

6. GENERAL DISCUSSION

A. Accept Minutes for February 11, 2008.

Joseph Collamati/Mary Beth Cuomo motion to accept the February 11, 2008 minutes. VOTE: 5/0.

Adjourned: ***Mary Beth Cuomo/Michael Tobin motion to adjourn. VOTE: 5/0. 7:55 pm.***

ⁱ The Road Committee met on Tuesday and discussed our economic condition. The Committee agreed not to postpone any of the work previously proposed for 2008. There should be approximately \$80,000 remaining after the 2008 work list is completed.

There is no chance of appropriating an additional \$340,000 in May to do the complete reconstruction of the Lake Street culvert and intersection. It may not even be viable to put any money towards road improvements in October. (*Below I explain some water main work we should do as part of this project.)

To do just the culvert work as shown on the approved ConCom plans would require filling of wetlands and therefore the stormwater basin and wetland replication would also have to be constructed. The very rough estimated cost for this work is \$120,000, it could be much more. We do not have enough money to cover this and it may be more difficult to do the partial project.

I suggest we therefore move towards a very basic patch repair of the existing culvert. I will be getting input from our bridge engineers (STV Inc.) but expect to construct a reinforced concrete slab over the top of the existing culvert with some concrete work one each end and reconstructed headwalls should do. I am pretty sure we have enough money to cover the patch work. This will not widen the culvert but will return the road to two lanes. We can start on this work as soon as we get some plans from our engineers.

* Lake at Cross Water Main Work - If we are going to do the complete reconstruction project we should do a \$130,000 water main extension project. A water loop from the dead end on Lake Street to the existing end of the system at Cross and Blackmar is part of the Water Master Plan. We should install the water main to the limits of the roadway rehab project. A future water project with a price tag of around \$100,000 would complete the loop. Funds for the water project could be appropriated in October as we should have a surplus of between \$350K and \$650K once FY08 is closed out. Adding the water main project to the mix would result in a \$470,000 project. If we are going to do the culvert and intersection reconstruction work we should do the water infrastructure work and make it a comprehensive project. If we are not doing the street work the water work can wait.

ⁱⁱ I have received proposals from Pare Engineering to address the Dam Notices of Non-Compliance (NON). We need to spend about \$4,500 in FY08 and I can cover that from the annual budget (421).

The cost to complete the Phase II Inspection and Investigation Report (Dam Order #2) is as follows:

\$18,090 for Crystal Lake
\$18,990 for Jenks Reservoir
\$18,090 for the Mill Pond on Pearl Street

Total needed \$55,170. Ideally we appropriate this amount in May. The NON requires the Phase II report be submitted to the Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation (MDCR) by 11/30/08. From the discussion with Road

Committee (Denis in attendance) it appears that in not going to be available for the May town meeting. I do not believe that Pare can complete \$55K of work in the time period between the October Meeting and 11/30/08. Maybe they can; I have asked but have not received a reply yet. Joe suggested that if we commit to fund the work at the October town meeting and hope that the commitment will be enough to have MDCR grant us a time extension.

From the Phase II reports we will get some good numbers for dam repair projects or dam breach project. It will also determine if the dams' hazard ratings can be lowered thereby relieving us from the NON requirement for the time being. At a glance Crystal Lake and maybe the Pearl St Dam could be candidates for breach, but breaching a dam requires some significant environmental filing and will require the reconstruction and widening of the existing culvert across Silver Lake Road.

This new unfunded mandate is hitting every dam owner in the State. The owners of all High or Significant hazard dams that are in poor condition are receiving a NON. The Selectmen will be petitioning our State Rep and Senator to ask for relief or financial assistance and we will not be the only ones asking for help.

To get a sense of the worst case need for dam reconstruction the very roughly estimated dam repair costs from the 2006 Pare Reports are as follows:

\$251,000 for Crystal Lake

\$356,000 for Jenks Reservoir

\$620,000 for the Mill Pond on Pearl Street

In addition it is clear that we will need to enhance our annual maintenance of dams which will amount to more money in the annual operating budget (422).