

Town of Farmington
Capital Improvement Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 1, 2015

Committee Members Present:

Paula Proulx, Chairman, Selectmen's Rep.
Ann Titus
Joe Pitre, School Board Rep.
Arthur Capello, Town Administrator
Martin Laferte, Planning Board Rep.

Committee Members Absent:

Sam Cataldo
Steve Welford, Superintendent- excused

1). Call to Order:

Chairman Proulx called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

2). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3). Review of Minutes:

September 3, 2015:

Motion: (Titus, second Pitre) to accept the minutes as written passed 5-0.

4). Review of Updated CIP Requests from Public Works (Bridges):

Members reviewed background information on priority bridges in need of repair in a memo provided by Public Works Director Dale Sprague. Sprague wrote there are six priority bridges, three of which are "red listed" by NH DOT and the other three are not. The recommended priority for bridge repair is River Road (red listed), Spring Street, Hornetown Road, Sheepboro Road (red listed), Paulson Road (red listed) and Cocheco Road Sprague said. Cost estimates to repair/construct each bridge are based on the estimated cost from a 2007 report plus a 2% escalator to bring the figures into 2016 costs. The bridges are scheduled to be repaired beginning in 2024 through 2034 so an additional 2% escalator was used to calculate the cost of the bridge work at its designated year of construction. The state bridge aid program will pay 80% of the cost and the town will be responsible for the remaining 20%. Sprague then calculated the town portion for each bridge and divided that number by the number of years until that bridge is scheduled for repair to determine the amount to set aside each year for each bridge. (e. g. River Road bridge town portion = \$205,000 to be repaired in 2024= 9 years from 2016= 205,000 /9 = \$22,000 in yearly contributions for this bridge). To fund the town portion of all six bridges the town would need to set aside \$90,000 a year for the first nine years. The contributions would then be reduced as each bridge is completed and removed from the list.

Discussion included possible grant funds from a rural grant program, planning for the worst case scenario, applications for bridge aid, cost for conceptual and engineering plans, being "shovel ready" for when the aid becomes available, developing a plan acceptable to Selectmen, preventing disqualification

from grants and difficulty funding projects due to the lack of past yearly contributions. After some additional discussion, Chairman Proulx noted there is approx. \$75,000 in the Capital Reserve Fund for bridges and members decided to propose adding \$20,000 to the fund to bring it up to where it should be for this year.

5). Review Updated CIP Requests for the Fire Dept.:

In a memo from Fire Chief James Reinert, the Chief gave an update on the number of air packs that will be replaced if the application for a grant is approved. He said the dept. can only request an air pack for each riding seat in the apparatus which would total 31. If the grant is received, the town would be responsible for 5% of the cost for a total of about \$11,500. If the grant is not approved, the total cost for 31 air packs is approx. \$227,385 which is about \$66,000 less than the previous CIP request. He noted that he is still waiting for price quotes from other air pack manufacturers as requested by the committee. Capello added the Chief has also applied for grants for apparatus and equipment and is looking at lease/purchase options for vehicles as a CIP payment could act as a lease/purchase payment. The committee also reviewed a spreadsheet containing a list of the year purchased, years before replacement, year to replace and replacement cost for all Fire and Ambulance CIP requests as requested by the committee.

6). Any Other Business:

Chairman Proulx suggested the committee begin discussing their recommendations to be presented to the Board of Selectmen next month. Discussion included potential amounts for CIP requests for bridges, highway, SCBA, Recreation, Future Tec. and Fire apparatus. Capello said he plans to ask Selectmen to support taking some of the ambulance revenues and put them in ambulance motorized vehicle fund and to consider using some of the undesignated fund balance to purchase equipment for the town. Chairman Proulx suggested it may be wise to “sit on” the undesignated funds as next year may be a rough year for the town.

Joe Pitre suggested the committee hold off on considering the amount of unspent funds to be returned to the town from the School District as a firm number. He said there may be some factors that may change the amount returned.

Additional discussion included the purchase of a van for the Rec. Dept., finding ways to reduce the number of hours of use on Fire and Ambulance vehicles, the bond amount for the new Public Safety Building and operating budget increases. Chairman Proulx asked members to review the budget numbers at home in preparation for next month’s meeting when they will review the CIP requests and finalize their presentation to the Board of Selectmen.

7). Next Meeting: Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 6 p.m.

8). Adjournment:

Motion: (Laferte, second Titus) to adjourn the meeting passed 5-0 at 7:20 p.m.

Respectively submitted
Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary

