

LITCHFIELD CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016
LITCHFIELD TOWN OFFICE BUILDING – 7:00 P.M.

Call to Order: Chairman David T. Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: James Koser, Leo Paul, Jr., Edwin Evers, David W. Wilson, Raz Alexe, David T. Wilson. Also present were Fran Carpentier, Amaechi Obi and Stacey Dionne from the Finance Dept.

Absent: Frank Simone

Approve Minutes

a) Special 12/6/16: **Motion:** D. W. Wilson moved to approve the special meeting minutes of December 6, 2016, with the following correction. Under Public Works No. 5, change Scenic View Drive Improvements to “eliminate \$100,000 and move the \$99,258 to in-house work.” J. Koser seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried. All voted aye except L. Paul, who abstained because of absence, and the motion carried.

Finalize and Recommend

Board of Education

Cafeteria table funding was eliminated, as it should be an operating expense. The auditorium lighting and sound, \$20,000, was eliminated, with \$40,000 still to remain in 19/20 and 21/22. The phone system, \$90,415 total, was divided with \$43,496 pushed to 18/19 and \$46,919 pushed to 19/20. Funded for 2017/18 were the flooring and underground fiber for a total of \$49,500. **Motion:** L. Paul moved and J. Koser seconded a motion to recommend a Board of Ed 2017/18 capital budget of \$49,500, to include \$37,500 for underground fiber, and \$12,000 for flooring. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Fire Commissioners

The firehouse roof job (\$100,000) was left for 2017/18, but the air conditioning improvements were pushed to 2018/19 (\$155,000). This leaves the proposed budget at \$461,400. **Motion:** E. Evers moved to approve the amended Fire & EMS Commission capital budget at \$461,400. J. Koser seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Park & Recreation

Both the Town Beach boat ramp and wall and the Community Field's Ripley field extension were included, for a total recommendation of \$95,000. D. W. Wilson suggested lowering the field job to \$20,000 and having Tri-Town fundraise \$5,000 and any overage, but L. Paul was not comfortable. **Motion:** E. Evers moved to set the capital recommendation at \$95,000, fully funding both projects, and L. Paul seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Public Works

After much discussion, changes were made to Town and School facilities requests. Changes made to Town requests were:

1. decreasing Public Works repointing/sealing to \$30,000 in 17/18 and pushing \$30,000 to 18/19
2. pushing Town Hall repointing/sealing to 18/19 (\$12,000)
3. pushing Town Hall flooring to 18/19 (\$10,000)
4. pushing Town Hall air conditioning to 18/19 (\$45,000)

5. reducing Public Works generator, relabel and test panels, from \$66,000 to \$60,000
6. eliminating GIS System (\$60,000) in hopes it could come from CapNR to be done in Jan.

As a result, Town Facilities 17/18 budget was reduced by \$163,000, for a new total of \$185,000.

Changes made to School requests were:

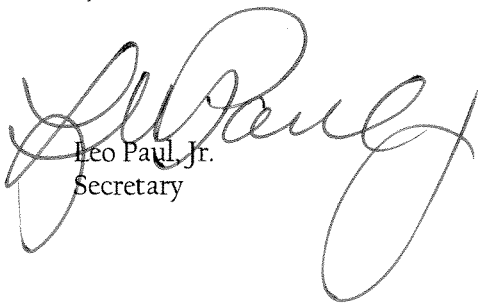
1. eliminating all LHS restroom sani-glaze work, as it was considered an operational cost (\$25,000 in 17/18)
2. eliminating LCS air conditioning, as window units could be replaced in operating budget (\$30,000)
3. eliminating LIS auditorium lighting/controls (\$20,000). Seeking grants or fundraisers suggested.

As a result, School Facilities 17/18 budget was reduced by \$75,000, for a new total of \$120,000. Grand total Public Works 17/18 proposed budget is now \$2,651,451. Total grand total of all capital requests is at \$3,302,351.

With the total requests so high this year, Raz explained the extra \$1 million in this budget can be found in roads so he can continue to do projects to gradually catch up. D. Wilson suggested educating the community at the budget hearing with a power point presentation showing why we need to do this. He suggested ways of funding the \$1 million, including by pay-as-you go this year and accept a 1 mill increase to take care of the capital. L. Paul reminded him they have a 2.5% cap on budget increases set by the State. D. Wilson thought he should talk conceptually with the Selectmen, explaining that everything in the capital budget is necessary, and asking whether we should increase debt and defer the obligation, or annually take a portion of the capital need. L. Paul said \$1 million is available in fund balance that could be used for Public Works, but he thought that might be counter-productive. They discussed debt and increases in mill rate to determine a palatable number for Capital and how to proceed.

Motion: L. Paul moved to recommend a capital budget of \$3,302,351 to the Board of Selectmen, and D. W. Wilson seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried. Stacey will update the sheets for the committee.

Adjournment: **Motion:** J. Koser moved to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. and D. W. Wilson seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.



Leo Paul, Jr.
Secretary