

CIP Committee Meeting 6/27/2011

Minutes

Present:

Paddy McHale
Chris LaPierre
Adam Buehne

Also present:

Road Agent Mike Clarke

I. CIP Advisory Committee 2010 Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

II. First order of business was nomination and election of cmte Chair and Vice-chair.

Paddy McHale was nominated for the Chairmanship. Vote was 3-0 in favor.

Chris Lapierre was nominated for the Vice-Chairmanship. Vote was 3-0 in favor.

III. The minutes for the November 2010 CIP Advisory committee were reviewed without action. A quorum of the 2010 CIP committee was not available to vote on acceptance.

IV. Road Agent Mike Clarke reviewed the status to date of all equipment and vehicles. He noted that the previous heavy equipment line item had been split out to list all three pieces of heavy equipment separately. In doing so, tracking replacement schedules for each is made easier.

The new grader lease/purchase (spread over 5 years), as well as the loader and backhoe schedules show that the funding for these machines will prove to be adequate. Given previous trends, Road Agent Clarke stated that the next major purchase of heavy equipment is not expected until the year 2024. Given current funding trends, this will be fully funded by the CRF.

Further, it was noted that based on past trends, the funding per year for the heavy equipment will be reduced by a significant amount by the year 2014, or 2015 at the latest.

Additionally Road Agent Clarke stated that the bulldozer currently on the books will not need to be replaced. Although the dozer is an '87, the level of use is estimated to be no more than about one month a year. That being the case, Mr. Clarke stated that it would be far more cost effective to rent a bulldozer as needed after the current machine is no longer economical to repair.

Two notes of caution were raised. First, Mr Clarke pointed out the ongoing reduction in funding for road surface maintenance. Funds from the state continue to be reduced, and significant cuts in the operating budget for this item have been enacted by the town. These two factors combine to cause major expenditures in the near future to keep the town's road in good repair. Chair McHale mentioned that this lack of funding would lead to increased wear and tear on department vehicles, increasing

maintenance costs and possibly causing an early replacement to be needed.

Another major issue facing the town is the impending closure of the gravel pit. Although court approval to keep the pit functional through 2014 was received, Road Agent Clarke is very concerned that the need to purchase gravel will be a very large budget item in the near future. As an example, he compared the cost of 6,000 yards of gravel from the pit to be approximately \$21,000 to the cost of purchasing the same amount of gravel at current rates to be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$75,000. He stressed that this figure did not address the need to transport the gravel.

Some discussion of a CRF for gravel ensued. The committee felt that although this sort of item did not strictly fall under the purview of the CIP Advisory committee, it was of sufficient importance that work be started on bringing this proposal to Town Meeting.

Mr. Clarke inquired about whether there was anything specific needed for the upcoming tour of the Highway Dept facilities at the next meeting. The committee felt that at this point nothing special would be needed.

The Chair thanked Mr. Clarke for his input and support of the CIP process. Mr Clarke thanked the committee, commenting on how well he thought the process worked.

No other business was brought forward. After confirming the time, date and location of the next meeting, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The vote was 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Paddy McHale
CIP Advisory Committee Chairman