

Minutes of Capital Planning Committee meeting.

Thursday, March 3, 2016, 7:30 p.m. at Town Building

Members present: Steve Jelinek, Chair, Ross Perry, Jim Salvie

Mr. Jelinek called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

The minutes of February 25, 2016 were reviewed and approved on a motion made by Mr. Perry and seconded by Mr. Jelinek. All voted in favor.

### 1. Highway Department.

The Committee met with Mike Clayton, Highway Superintendent, and Justine St. John. Mr. Clayton first discussed the proposed replacement of S-6, the six-wheel dump truck with "do-al" body and sander and salter. The body has been handed down and repaired since 1984, parts replaced along the way. Mr. Clayton reports that parts are no longer made for this body, so continuing to "patch" is no longer an option. This truck is used for construction, sanding, salting, hauling. It has only 100K miles but the problem is age. The estimated cost is \$220,000..

Mr. Clayton next described the plan for replacement of low volume roads, which in FY17 will focus on Maura Drive and Carriage Lane. Highway prefers to keep such efforts in the same part of town to make shuttling equipment back and forth easier. Both roads have a good base so only resurfacing is proposed. This work would be outsourced, as will resurfacing of other roads (Packard and Red Acre are likely for FY17). The work on Maura Dr. is estimated to cost \$30,000; the work on Carriage Lane, \$45,000. Highway has a good plan to resurface low volume roads every ten years, so postponement is not really an option (it bumps other projects). The Committee noted that overall the Highway department does a great job planning their capital acquisitions.

It was noted that each year the town gets approximately \$280,000 in chapter 90 aid, and that it takes about \$150,000 to resurface (not rebuild) a mile of road. It was also noted that this year's work on Gates Lane is complete.

Mr. Clayton also making a last minute addition to his FY17 capital request for an automatic speed limit sign that he plans to install on Marlborough Road, in response to resident complaints. He proposes to purchase two, at a cost of \$5,000 each. They can be moved to different locations, are solar powered, and it is possible that a grant through the police department will reimburse the town for some or all of the cost. The Committee thanked Mr. Clayton and Ms. St. John for their work.

### 2. Fire Department.

The Committee met with Fire Chief Joe Landry who is proposing to replace Engine 17, the secondary brush truck with a plow. The truck body is a 1992 pick-up and is showing the wear of being stored outside for many years: it is rotting from the undercarriage. The truck is getting more and more expensive to maintain. Because parts are no longer available on the aftermarket, failed parts essentially have to be rebuilt. In addition to being a back up for the brush truck, this truck serves as a general utility truck and clears snow from the fire station apron. The radio from the existing truck can be swapped into the new one, but Chief Landry is proposing to purchase a new truck with plow and "skid unit" (pump and tank). It is not feasible to remove the existing "skid unit". The proposed cost is \$60,000.

The Committee also discussed with Chief Landry the proposed rebuilding of the pumps in Engines 12 and 15. Both pumps have experienced declining ratings in recent years in pump performance tests (rate of water expelled) due to decreased pressure. The pump in Engine 12 failed this year's test; Engine 15's barely passed. Though this does not mean the pumps are inoperable, they are not performing to the standard to which they should perform. The problems experienced are consistent with problems experienced by other rural fire departments, where untreated water pits the chamber in which pressure is built up. The cost of replacing each is \$30,000. Since the pump is such an important part of the fire engine, however, replacing it extends the usable life of the engine, particularly if the other important part, the motor, is well maintained. Chief Landry estimated replacing these pumps could extend the life of each engine by 5 years. A new fire engine costs well above \$500,000.

Chief Landry briefly discussed his plans for fiscal 18 to purchase a new ambulance and keep the existing one as a backup since he will have the space when the station moves to Pompo. He said he expected no staffing impact from this. He is re-examining the replacement of Engine 14 slated for FY 20. The Committee thanked Chief Landry for his time.

### 3. Lake Boon Commission.

The Committee met with Theresa O'Riorden, one of the town's representatives on the Lake Boon Commission. The Commission is seeking replacement of a boat trailer and the outboard motor for the Commission's boat. The trailer costs \$3,000 and is used primarily to store the boat during the winter, to get it up off the ground. The estimated cost for the motor is \$14,500.

There was a general discussion of the history of the Commission's boat and its uses, as opposed to the uses of the police boat. Ms. O'Riorden commented that the police have on occasion used the Commission's boat when their boat was unavailable, and she described the uses as overlapping. This is a four stroke engine, and the existing motor is "having some issues." The Commission's narrative says it cost \$700 to get the boat in the water this year, and they estimate another \$1500 in repair expenses. The Committee felt that the replacement cost did not seem unusual, but an

important question was whether Hudson was paying for a third. Ms. O'Riorden was unclear on that point and agreed to check and get back to the Committee. The Committee thanked Ms. O'Riorden for her input.

Mr. Jelinek noted that next week the Committee would meet with representatives of the planning board, police department, and Stow TV.

There being no further business, Mr. Perry moved to adjourn at 9:02 p.m, Mr. Salvie seconded and all voted in favor.

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James Salvie, Clerk