

Capital Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes
Montague Town Hall, Conference Room
One Avenue A, Turners Falls
February 20th, 2019

Attendees: Capital Improvements Committee members Joshua Lively, Greg Garrison, Steve Ellis, Fred Bowman, Mike Langknecht. Elementary school teachers from Hillcrest Jessica Fox, and Veronica Hurst

I. Approve Minutes of February 14th CIC meeting

Minutes not prepared.

II. Statement from staff members of Hillcrest School regarding Capital Article Request prioritization.

Mr. Ellis moves to begin consideration with teachers from Hillcrest Elementary school, Mr. Lively seconds. Passes 5-0.

Mrs. Fox shares her concerns relating to the proposed electrical upgrade at Hillcrest. Mrs. Fox and Mrs. Hurst disagree with the School Committee's decision to designate the proposed project as the fourth priority out of five. State there are many hot days in late August early September. Classrooms in the low 80's early in the morning. Regulations suggest this is too hot and 78 degrees is the maximum temperature allowed. A special education classroom is among the hottest. States these hot days are primarily spent keeping kids cool and hydrated. Mrs. Fox is advocating as teacher at the school as well as a parent of a child in Hillcrest.

CIC discussed whether or not we are buying a clear plan for upgrade as it needs to be done. Does it account for all electrical needs of the classrooms as proposed. Mr. O'Neil states that the wire being specified could easily be upgraded to a larger one in order to make future expansion viable. Committee ponders if this project is better done after we have the META study.

Mr. Langknecht says the facilities sub committee plans to study the issue, Montague-Wide, and develop a stronger plan.

III. Discussion of prioritization and recommendations of Capital Article Requests

Discussed ranking with all members of the committee. Decided to rank each project with a letter grade A-D. Each member verbalized their rankings and all rankings were averaged out and then discussed and qualified. The A-D grades represent projects that are the CIC highly recommends, recommends, recommends with reservations, do not recommends.

Mr. Ellis moves to include these projects as highly recommended:

- Shea roof
- Town Hall annex roof
- DPW discretionary fund
- Tech school pump station
- Millers Falls I&I study
- Sheffield Admin building columns
- GMRSD plow truck

Members then moved to add certain projects to highly recommended, gave evidence and votes were taken.

Mr. Lively moves to add the Montague Center Library remediation project from recommended to highly recommended. States the energy and heat loss as primary rationale for this upgrade recommendation. Mr Obear seconds, it is a very economical and important project, Passes 5-0

Mr. Ellis moves to add the Town Hall front awning to the highly recommended, must be done now or the awning will degrade past the point where it can be restored. Mr. Obear seconds. Passes 5-0

Mr. Ellis moves to add the WPFC compost study to the highly recommended category, the town must do all it can to attempt to stabilize sewer rates. Mr. Obear seconds. Passes 5-0

Mr. Garrison moves to include the following projects in the recommend category.

- Carnegie Library dangerous door renovation
- Millers Falls Library moisture remediation
- New Ballot Tabulators
- TFHS sidewalk replacement.

Mr. OBear seconds. Passes 5-0

Mr. Garrison moves to not recommend the Hillcrest school project forward at this time. While the project is important to the building the district is not fully prepared yet with full plan. Mr. Obear seconds. Passes 5-0

Mr. Garrison moves to recommend with reservations the electrical upgrade at Hillcrest elementary. Not yet a full plan but the committee would welcome it as part of a more comprehensive plan. Concerns over the quote integrity were also discussed. Mr Obear seconds. Passes 5-0.

IV. Adjournment

Mr. Ellis motions to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bowman seconds. Passes 5-0

Next meeting scheduled for 3/6/2019 at 3pm