

Capital Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting held via Zoom

February 9, 2022

Meeting called to order at 3:08pm.

Attendees: CIC members: Greg Garrison, Steve Ellis, Jason Burbank. Ariel Elan, Energy Committee Liaison; Tom Bergeron, DPW; Chelsey Little, WPCF; Dan Wasiuk, Health Director.

Roll Call used for all votes taken due to remote meeting format.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

No minutes available for review.

2. Consider Any Revised Winter Special Town Meeting Capital Requests

Collection System Engineering Study Update

Selectboard voted at February 7 meeting to provide \$250,000 for this project from ARPA funding as required to become eligible for offsetting \$150,000 DEP Asset Management Program grant. \$48,000 of cost expected to be in the form of Town in-kind services leaving a final net cost of \$52,000 for the study, which is required to meet state and federal guidelines relate to both Inflow and Infiltration control and Combined Stormwater Overflow mitigation. This project will lead to engineered alternatives to reduce I/I and CSO events. No action needed on the STM agenda as a result of this decision by the Selectboard.

Sewer Vector Truck

The Selectboard indicated its desire to move the purchase of the Vector up from ATM to STM, and will also consider whether to fund it through ARPA at a later date. Request expected to be based upon the first year lease figure, for which we have an estimate of \$108,000 on a five year lease to own arrangement.

Discussed whether to consider a re-furbished unit. Mr Bergeron explained that the current unit has, essentially, been refurbished by the DPW, but at a certain point that is no longer an effective strategy. It is a temporary fix on a 17 year old truck.

Mr. Garrison moved to recommend the purchase of a sewer vac truck at a cost of up to \$575,000 outright or \$125,000/year on a five year lease to own agreement. Mr. Burbank seconds. Roll call vote, motion passes 3-0.

4. Discuss ARPA Funding and Possible Priorities (taken out of order for staff benefit)

The Town will continue to weigh priorities for available ARPA funds and Selectboard has thus far signaled interest in spending some of this on wastewater infrastructure and related

projects. Heard discussion of priorities that could include new screw pumps and a new generator at the WPCF, payments for a new vector truck for the DPW. Mrs. Little described other capital maintenance needs including completion of the project to shift to energy efficient fine bubble diffusers—expected to be covered by DEP Gap II (in hand) and Gap III (will apply) grants; as well as projects to upgrade both the Industrial Park Pump Station (grant funding in hand expected to cover cost) and the Montague Center Pump Station. There is also a need for extensive concrete work at the facility.

3. Discussion of Annual Town Meeting Requests

Health Department Inspectional Vehicle

Mr. Wasiuk outline reasoning and options for purchase of an inspectional vehicle for the Health Office, which would be shared with other inspectional offices, including buildings and assessors. There could be a need for more than one vehicle. Explained that this could be more cost effective and remove liability risk away from town staff. Mr. Ellis noted that re-using inefficient vehicles is not allowable under Green Community rules, except for certain exempt uses, such as public safety and DPW.

Mr. Garrison outline corporate experience with cost and reliability of Electric Vehicles (EVs). Views this proposition favorably, but sees need to think it through more completely on a policy level, as well as to work through practical matters of the proposal. For example, there will likely be a need to create a charging port at Town Hall. Discussion centers on developing a program, not just a purchase. General consensus is that this is a good discussion, but it needs to be larger and engage other departments before CIC would consider recommending it.

Town Hall Main Roof

Reviewed the question of whether to consider a metal roof as opposed to architectural asphalt shingles as currently presented. General discussion suggests metal may offer better value over longer term, but noted by Mr. Garrison that snow guards are very expensive and have recently increased 50% in cost.

Mr. Burbank asked whether we have the right plan with asphalt? It would be expedient, but can we get a metal roof quote? The timing of getting a solid estimate may at this point push us into the next appropriation cycle, out of this season. Decided to consider it further at next meeting – see what further information can be gathered. Would prefer metal for environmental reasons.

Shea Theater Roof

Presented as a \$35,000 project cost, which leaves over \$10,000 for HVAC duct removal and re-installation. Discussion of roof consultant's response relative to how it will be flashed in around the non-movable HVAC unit and whether structural analysis should be done beforehand. Mr. Garrison notes that this roof is actively leaking and he wants to see action on it. Delay action on this matter until next meeting. Need to have some additional information.

4. Next Meeting

Committee plans to take votes on outstanding Annual Town Meeting warrant articles at the February 16 meeting, at which the committee will also consider building assessments strategy as well as development of the committee's One-Year Capital Plan/Report of Recommendations for FY23.

5. Adjournment.

Mr. Burbank moves to adjourn. Mr. Garrison seconds. Motion passes 3-0.