

Capital Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting held via Zoom

March 9, 2022

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

Attendees: Jason Burbank, Steve Ellis, Greg Garrison, John Martineau. Ariel Elan, MEC liaison

Meeting called to order at 3:00pm. All votes taken by roll call due to remote meeting format.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Martineau moves to accept the minutes of February 16 as presented, Mr. Burbank seconds. Motion passes 4-0.

Unexpected Business: Resignation of Member Fred Bowman

Mr. Ellis received a call from Fred Bowman, who indicated that life circumstances require that he resign his Town committee positions effective immediately. The committee accepts Fred's resignation with regret and best wishes for health to him and his family. It was noted that he serves in the position appointed "by and from" the Planning Board, meaning that a member of that board would need to fill that seat. If a volunteer does not come forward, we would be left with reduced numbers and may want to consider a request for a bylaw change.

2. Review March Special Town Meeting Outcomes

Capital requests for the lease to own of a sewer vac truck and purchase of new Assessing software were well received and funded by members present at the Special Town Meeting.

3. One Year Capital Report/ 4. Adjustments to FY23 Recommendations/5. Presentation to Finance Committee and Selectboard

Matters discussed jointly. Discussed draft version including the rating scale and content. Content discussion focused on minor revisions and whether any recommendations should be further considered. Report is almost ready to go to Finance Committee/Selectboard, with Mr. Garrison to make that presentation. Mr. Ellis will go through for copy edit purposes and will attend meeting as well.

Discussed the specifics of two recommendations and made votes as follow:

WPCF Screw Pumps

It was suggested that the previous vote recommending water pollution screw pumps be revised to reflect the cost of stainless-steel materials with the understanding that these may have

greater longevity than carbon steel. Noted that these may be considered for funding through ARPA in advance of the Annual Town Meeting.

Mr. Garrison moves to recommend the purchase and installation of stainless-steel screw pumps at the WPCF at a cost of \$880,000. Mr. Martineau seconds. Motion passes 3-0-1 with Mr. Ellis abstaining.

DPW Discretionary Fund (\$50,000)

Mr. Garrison had moved and the committee had previously voted to recommend \$50,000 rather than the \$100,000 requested for this fund in FY23. The basis for this was the strong balance in the vicinity of \$70,000. It was noted that the DPW intended to purchase a new zero turn mower for \$30,000, but Mr. Garrison indicated he was satisfied that the \$50,000 allocation would be sufficient to replenish this account to a figure near \$100,000 as the new year began. Consensus that the recommendation should stand, no vote taken.

6. Consider Recommendations for ARPA Spending Priorities

Mr. Ellis explained the rule of the ARPA grant program and our grant award amount of \$2,454,623 and that the Selectboard will hold public input sessions related to its use. Members offered some specific input, with no votes taken.

- Ms. Elan noted that the Montague Center Library is in need of an elevator and this may be an appropriate capital project priority.
- Mr. Garrison highlighted the original focus of the grant, in relation to capital projects, was on water and wastewater infrastructure. Would like to see the most pressing needs of the WPCF and collection system addressed, with some set aside for other capital project needs.
- Mr. Burbank suggested a heat pump retrofit of Town Hall would be advisable

7. Review and Set Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Next meeting date is to be March 30, 2022.

5. Adjournment

Mr. Ellis moves to adjourn. Mr. Martineau seconds. Motion passes 4-0