

MONTAGUE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:15 PM

Meeting Held Remotely

In Attendance:

CIC Members: Gregory Garrison (GG), Ariel Elan (AE), Jason Burbank (JB), Chris Menegoni (CM)

Town Staff: Water Ramsey (WR)- Assistant Town Admin, Chelsey Little (CL)- Clean Water Superintendent

Meeting convened 3:15, GG presiding

1. Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes of 1/25/23 and 2/8/23 by GG. Seconded by JB. GG- AYE, AE- AYE, JB-AYE, CM- AYE. Motion Carried

3. Review and Consider Recommendation of Capital Requests for FY24 Annual Town Meeting: including but not limited to the following requests:

6. Parks and Recreation- Montague Center Park Improvements (\$400,000)

Jon Dobosz is still working to obtain a price list from the designer (GZA)
The Montague Center Park Improvement Project will focus on improving all areas of the facility, including but not limited to the playground, ballfield, parking and accessibility, picnic area, and other associated amenities. Montague has the opportunity to accelerate this project from schematic design to construction by leverage a State Parkland Acquisitions & Renovations for Communities (“PARC”) Grant. The Town is eligible to apply for up to 68% of \$400,000 in grant funds for this project (\$272,000).

JD and WR presented information on cost of recent playground rehabilitation projects at Rutters Park and planned for Hillcrest which are in the vicinity of \$400,000. While the play structures themselves can cost in excess of \$100,000, considerable expense goes into establishing proper drainage and ADA compliant/ universally accessible surfaces, and parking areas.

The CIC notes that the language in the article indicates that funds shall not be expended if the grant is not awarded. The CIC was satisfied with that language and budget.

Cost Avoidance. The PARC grant is an opportunity to leverage a grant of up to \$272,000 to advance a planned improvement to the Montague Park system

MOTION to Recommend by JB. Seconded by AE. B. GG- AYE, AE- AYE, JB-AYE, CM- AYE. MOTION CARRIED

7. Parks and Recreation- Unity Skatepark Lighting Project (\$66,000)

The \$66,000 request is not inclusive of installation costs of the lighting system. Eversource has indicated to JD that there will be no cost to the town for the new service. JD has reached out to Utility Services of New England for a quote for installation. Greg will help make an inquiry to the company. The CIC is not comfortable recommending the project without an installation quote. This will be tabled to 3/8 to allow for one more week to obtain a quote.

TABLED- NO VOTE TAKEN. More info is needed on installation costs.

4. Public Works – Discretionary fund for large repairs and equipment (\$70,592)
WR reported that the current balance as of 3/1/23 is \$29,408. The request is thus \$70,592. This number has been confirmed by the Town Accountant. The Department recently encumbered the purchase of a “paver box”. This replaces an old unit and was approved by the Selectboard per the new policy.

MOTION to Recommend at \$70,592 by AE. Seconded by JB. B. GG- AYE, AE- AYE, JB- AYE, CM- AYE. MOTION CARRIED

3. Clean Water Facility- Operations Building Boiler Replacement (\$113,419)

JB and AE reported upon their visit to the facility. JB felt the existing boiler is oversized. He suggested that the burners needs replacement, however the boiler may still be functional, despite being over 35 years old. Ay suggests in his opinion that a pellet boiler with indoor storage may be the best option. He did consider a ground source heat pump, but it not advisable because it may require upgrades to the distribution system. It was noted by AE that ventilation upgrades appear to be imminently necessary at the facility as well. As part of due diligence, GG still wants to see an estimate for a like-for-like oil burner replacement. Chelsey Little will attend with updated information on 3/8/2023.

TABLED- NO VOTE TAKEN. More info needed on boiler alternatives and specifications

Other non-capital articles:

JD is investigating solar power for the Unity Park well. Greg cautioned that solar may be significantly more expensive and possibly less reliable for this particular application compared to an interconnected well. Hand pump is still an option for the well but is not ideal from a user perspective. Greg will make some inquiries regarding solar feasibility. To be revisited on 3/8

4. Review of ARPA potential capital projects

WR shared that the Selectboard are re-considering how to finance the CWF screw pump project. This may present the opportunity to redeploy the \$800,00 appropriated to that project. WR will run through the potential project list at the next CIC meeting on 3/8.

Next Meeting: 3/8/2023 3:15PM

MOTION to close the meeting at 4:37 PM by JB. Seconded by AE. GG- AYE, AE- AYE, JB- AYE. Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Walter Ramsey