

MONTAGUE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 21, 3:15 PM

Montague Town Hall Annex One Avenue A Turners Falls, MA

In Attendance:

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

Town Staff: Christopher Nolan-Zeller (CNZ)- Assistant Town Administrator

Meeting called to order 3:17PM, GG Presiding

1. Call to Order and Approve any outstanding meeting minutes

No minutes were available for review.

2. FY26-30 Capital Improvements Plan

- a. Review procedure for feedback, comments, and questions received

CNZ introduced himself to Committee, citing goal to continue building on success of his predecessor with facilitation of capital planning. CIC agreed to also invite new DPW Superintendent to a future meeting. GG requested that when Department Heads are contacted about their capital needs for the upcoming years, special attention be paid to the schools, which have substantial needs as cited in recent building evaluations, despite the long-term goal of replacing them. CM asked what was certified in Free Cash, and how this affected the year's Capital Stabilization funding. CNZ agreed to find an answer to this question and communicate it to the Committee, along with the up-to-date Capital Plan.

3. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Capital Projects

- a. Discuss general implementation strategy of approved projects

CNZ described the current status of each item funded by the Town's ARPA revenue, including possible need for re-allocation of up to \$500,000 or more if projects planned for the Clean Water Facility (CWF) would not be bid ready this Fall. LR asked how the boiler replacement at the CWF fit into the plan for a replacement of the Operations Building. The Committee agreed on the need for a better ops building, and that expensive repairs to the current site should be avoided if possible. JB suggested installing a new burner, rather than replacing the entire boiler, as a more suitable short-term fix.

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Committee agreed with this approach. AE noted this would be far less expensive than a full boiler replacement, and would free up additional ARPA funds. Committee expressed consensus that preferred re-allocations if needed are to existing projects with cost overruns, such as the CWF Screw Pump replacement, or potentially the Carnegie Library basement rehabilitation, followed by other necessary projects without a clear alternative funding source, such as the extended accessible pedestrian ramp on the even side of Avenue A between 3rd and 4th Street. Only if no other options were possible would the Committee consider recommending allocation to existing projects funded by Capital, such as the purchase of a 10-wheel dump truck for the DPW.

4. Staff Updates

a. Updates on ongoing capital projects

CNZ provided updates on the ongoing status of the Town Hall Annex Solar, Montague Center Library windows, Carnegie Library basement rehab, Senior Center siding repair, CWF Screw Pump replacement, CWF Septage Receiving Station, South Ferry Road culvert replacement, Skatepark Lighting, playgrounds at Montague Center and Hillcrest, and Avenue A Streetscape. Committee spoke regarding the Town Hall Annex solar, and possibility of re-allocating ARPA funds to grid upgrades needed for this project, also discussing possible methods for pushing Eversource to make these required upgrades.

5. Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting requirements

None.

6. Establish next meeting date(s)

Committee agreed to meet again on September 4th at 2:30PM, in order to have enough time before CNZ attends the EDIC meeting at 4PM. Three items to be discussed will pertain to new information on the Screw Pump, Carnegie basement, and CWF boiler projects, in order to make a recommendation to the Selectboard prior to their 9/9 meeting.

MOTION to close the meeting at 4:23PM by CM, LR Seconded. JB-AYE, CM-AYE, GG-AYE, AE-AYE, LR- AYE. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher Nolan-Zeller