

Capital Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes
Montague Town Hall, Conference Room
One Avenue A, Turners Falls
February 6th, 2019

Attendees: Capital Improvements Committee members Joshua Lively, Greg Garrison, Fred Bowman, Bob Obear (3:15) Steve Ellis, Mike Langknecht. Tom Bergeron of the DPW, Ariel Elan of the MEC, Bob McDonald of WPCF.

Mr. Lively calls the meeting to order at 3:00.

I. Reconsider minutes of 1-9-2019

Motion to eliminate the sentence referring to the Montague Energy Committee being “MEC is very hot on the conversion idea” relative to the dual boiler system at Sheffield School as that characterization was not offered by the speaker. Mr. Bowman makes the motion to amend and re-approve. Mr. Garrison seconds. Passes 4-0.

II. Approve minutes of 1-23-19

Mr. Bowman moves to approve minutes of 1-23-19 CIC meeting, Mr. Garrison seconds. Passes 4-0

III. Discuss Special Article Request submitted by DPW

CIC opens the floor to Tom Bergeron, superintendent of the highway department to discuss the DPW special article request of \$100,000 for the DPW Discretionary account. Mr. Bergeron plans on shopping for a used mini excavator this summer (in FY20). Mr. Bergeron explains the many instances where this piece of equipment can be utilized and is superior to a back hoe, telling the committee of several occasions where he had to rent one for days at a time to complete projects in town. Mr. Bergeron believes the price will be around \$40,000-\$50,000 and that it will be much easier to get the best price if he can use discretionary funding as this allows him to act quickly as they come up on state lists.

Mr. Bergeron explains what he is doing with current discretionary funding from FY19. He plans on investing around \$18,000 into the town’s Vac truck, which is the town’s most used piece of equipment during the summer. To ship the Vac truck out would cost around \$28,000 but he believes town mechanics can replace the fans, filters and a large steel plate that is worn out at a savings of approximately \$10,000. Along with repairs to the Vac truck he also plans to replace a 2000 Dodge 1 ton dump truck at a price of \$63,000.

Mr. Bergeron closes by stressing how important the discretionary fund has historically been to the DPW. This is “what allows the DPW to stay up and running.” Following this there was a brief discussion of these and other purchases relative to the Town Capital Improvement Plan, which we expect to update in summer 2019.

IV. Update on WPCF solar array

Mr. McDonald shares with the CIC the current status of the onsite solar array for the WPCF. Since the SMART program is fully subscribed and there is a long wait list, the incentives associated with the project may not be available, which would substantially change the return on investment. JK Muir is still working on the engineering plan and Gregg Garrison has offered to have his company, Northeast Solar,

conduct a light study, essentially a second opinion on the assessment of solar availability, which is the basis for calculations of energy generation potential. The main issue seems to be tree canopies along the riverbank that cannot simply be cleared.

V. Discuss Special Article Requests submitted by WPCF.

CIC opens the floor to Bob Mc,Donald, Superintendent of the water pollution control facility to discuss the three special article requests submitted by his department.

a. I&I study for Millers Falls

Request to hire a firm to perform a study on I&I in the village of Millers Falls, which pumps its sewage to Erving. Town water department reports 13 million gallons of water yearly being supplied to the residents of Millers. Town of Erving reports 32 million gallons of water flowing into their treatment plant. Mr. Ellis' take on this is that I&I isn't a new issue, as he had the chance to review the numbers from Erving and, as presented, the proportion of I&I hasn't changed very much over the last several years. However, during a rain event, it can contribute to pushing the Erving WPCF into an episode of non-compliance with the DEP regulations and that is something we take very seriously. Mr. McDonald is waiting for 2 firms to provide estimates for the study. Advises that DPW may also be able to provide information as to probable infiltration sites, which were discussed in brief by the CIC. CIC looks forward to reviewing estimates.

b. Tech School pump station upgrades

Mr. McDonald begins by stating that the pump station repairs to Denton St. pump station (Lake Pleasant) will be complete this Spring. The Tech School pump station is next on the list. The Tech School pump station handles the most abrasive water in town, being located in the industrial park. The WPCF gets a lot of false alarms coming from this station. Mr. McDonald believes that he can retrofit new components into the station and reduce trips to the station for alarms as well as remotely operate some features of the station, similar to what he has done to other stations in town. This would be station 5 of 8 total that need upgrading if approved. Cost of \$48,000 for equipment to upgrade vs. \$1,000,000 to build a new station is noted. Mr. Ellis asks if the other 3 stations can be upgraded in same fashion. Mr. McDonald answers yes but that each station is a little different than the others and requires individual analysis and planning to upgrade. Quotes in hand and informed by previous upgrades to other town pump stations.

c. Compost Study

Mr. McDonald is continuing to try and find ways to reduce the cost of waste disposal. Article request is to have studies conducted to determine whether composting is a viable solution at different scales. The scale could simply be that of composting our own sludge during the composting season or building to a larger capacity sufficient to handle the "digestate" sludge from a regional anaerobic digester which is being studied by Greenfield, in collaboration with Montague and a handful of other communities.

VI. Confirm next meeting date

Next CIC meeting to be held on February 13th at 3 pm.

VII. Adjournment

Mr. Bowman motions to adjourn, Mr. Garrison seconds. Passes 5-0.