

Capital Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes
Montague Town Hall, Downstairs Conference Room
One Avenue A, Turners Falls MA
March 4th, 2020

Attendees: Capital Improvements Committee members: Steve Ellis, Fred Bowman, Josh Lively, Greg Garrison. DPW Superintendent, Tom Bergeron.

Meeting called to order at 3pm.

1. Approve Meeting minutes of February 26th, 2020

Mr. Garrison moves to approve minutes from the February 26th CIC meeting. Mr. Bowman seconds. Passes 4-0

2. Discuss DPW Discretionary fund with Tom Bergeron

The committee received updates and reviewed discretionary fund spending in FY 20. The majority of the funding spent was on truck repairs. Also a truck was purchased to be used by the Town's custodian Beverly Ketch. A trailer was purchased for the mini excavator and \$25,000 was spent on the new sweeper. Current Balance is around \$50,000. A forklift for the new DPW building was purchased through the DPW facility construction budget.

The plans for this year's discretionary fund will be a new tractor for the Parks and Rec department which is also used for sidewalk clearing. Also a one ton plow truck circa 2005 is failing and has an unreparable heating problem which makes it unable to safely operate in the winter and Mr. Bergeron expressed the need to replace it with a new truck. Mr. Bergeron is waiting until the winter has fully passed before making purchasing decisions.

Mr. Bergeron gave the committee some updates concerning the move from the current DPW facility to the new location and explained that the DPW would be taking on more of the maintenance for the police cruisers.

Mr. Bergeron explains that his projection for the discretionary fund is to spend down to around \$20,000 by purchasing the Parks and Rec tractor and then replenish the fund with \$100,000. At this point the new one ton would be purchased and this would leave a balance of approximately \$60,000 for next winter. Mr. Garrison expresses concern for financial responsibility and would like to see the discretionary fund topped off to \$100,000 rather than added to.

Mr. Garrison moves to recommend \$80,000 for DPW discretionary. Mr. Bowman seconds. Passes 4-0.

3. Receive any updates to the GMRSD special article requests

The committee reviewed and discussed the articles submitted by the school district.

-Reviewed Hillcrest masonry and roof work. Concern over the vagueness of the estimate from Scott Allen. Mr. Lively would feel more comfortable if we had clearer, more detailed quotes. Concern over the lack of attention to the failing windows is noted. Members worry that these failed windows may need to happen in sequence with the masonry. Reputation of the estimating mason is a supporting factor. The CIC considers the project with the understanding that the windows must be attended to next.

Mr. Garrison moves to recommend Hillcrest building envelope roof and brick repair with acknowledgement that quote and scope lack detail and need for related window work. Recommend with reservations. Mr. Bowman seconds. Passes 4-0.

-Admin building repair discussion and review ensues. Mr. Lively has visited the building and noted the deterioration, although it doesn't seem as bad as originally thought. Mr. Lively is unsure that metal coil is the best option. Mr. Garrison also has concerns about the metal wrapping being the best solution, wonders if elements of decay are already in motion and if covering them up will prevent further damage from occurring. Mr. Ellis believes that the consensus of the CIC is that the request for wrapping the skirt in aluminum may be a quick fix but perhaps not the right one for long term care. Mr. Garrison feels there is value in the canopy repair and other members agree.

Mr. Ellis moves to recommend \$10,000 for improvements to the Admin building entry canopy. Mr. Lively seconds. Passes 4-0.

The committee decides to table the remainder of the article and invite reps from GMRSD back in to explain the reasoning for metal cladding.

Mr. Garrison moves to recommend the library wall for \$20,000. Mr. Bowman seconds. Passes 4-0.

Mr. Garrison moves to recommend resurfacing of TFHS tennis courts at \$60,000. Mr. Bowman seconds. Passes 4-0.

4. Consider any additional information related to previously discussed requests.

The committee decides to make recommendations for articles that have been updated since first being discussed and reviewed.

Mr. Garrison recommends repair of the Millers Falls Stairs and the 7th Street walkway. Mr. Ellis seconds. Passes 4-0.

Mr. Garrison moves to recommend \$100,000 to supplement the \$135,000 in grant money to upgrade pumps and blowers at the WPCF. Installing fine bubble diffusers. Mr. Bowman seconds. Passes 4-0.

Mr. Garrison moves to recommend \$40,000 for replacement of primary sludge pump #2 at the WPCF. Mr. Bowman seconds. Passes 4-0.

5. Adjournment.

Mr. Ellis moves to adjourn. Mr. Lively seconds. Passes 4-0.