

Capital Improvements Meeting
December 8, 2021
Zoom Meeting

Attendees: CIC Members - Gregory Garrison, Fred Bowman, Jason Burbank, John Martineau, Energy Committee member Ariel Elan Joined at 3:20 PM
Tom Bergeron – Montague DPW
Chelsea Little - WPCF
Judith Lorei – Cemetery Commission joined at 3:05 PM

Burnham Cemetery Discussion

Tom Bergeron and Judith Lorei updated the committee on the bank reconstruction of the Burnham cemetery. The DPW will do most of the work required to secure the deteriorating retaining wall. The work needed to remove the trees in the project area cannot be performed by the DPW. The tree work cost is estimated to be between \$5000 - \$12,000. Tom said that the tree warden's budget funds could offset some costs. Judith will ask for \$12,000 in a particular article request to do the tree work.

The DPW will do most of the work to rebuild the retaining wall. The wall will be constructed of a large cement block with an aesthetic finish chosen by the homeowners adjacent to the cemetery. The adjacent homeowners are agreeable to the scope wall repair.

DPW Vacuum Truck

Tom Bergeron updated the committee on the vacuum truck replacement. Tom could not provide a firm price for the vacuum truck; the dealer could provide that when the truck is ordered. The current estimate is \$ 495,000. The annual lease payments are estimated to be \$107,292 a year for a five-year lease.

Tom reiterated that the vacuum truck is a piece of critical need equipment for the town. The current truck is failing and may not last another year. Additional EPA requirements that the town's sewer and drainpipes be flushed every two years require a working vacuum truck.

The estimated trade-in value for the current truck is \$50,000. The expected life cycle of the new truck is 15 years.

WPCF Capital Requests

Screw Pumps – Chelsea brought the committee up to date on replacing the main screw pumps for the WPCF. These screw pumps (augers) move effluent from the lower to the second upper treatment level. They are critical to the plant's operation. A failure of the pumps would cause a significant disruption in the plant, and using emergency pumps to move the effluent would be very costly. The screw has met its estimated life cycle. The replacement pumps will last 20 years

and need to be ordered soon to be built and installed before the other screws fail. One current screw has already fallen and is working intermittently. The current quote from the supplier, Evoqua's, is \$700,000. The price includes two carbon steel screws, shipping, and installation assistance. There will be additional costs for installation and updating the control systems. The total cost will be detailed in the special article request. No vote was taken on the screw pumps.

Backup Generator

The WPCF is requesting that the backup generator be replaced. The current generator is 42 years old, and its parts can no longer be sourced. The current generator is housed inside the WPCF facility. The replacement would be installed outside, freeing up space in the WPCF facility for a meeting room.

The new generator is estimated to cost \$130,000 installed. Walter indicated that there might be municipal vulnerability program funds available to purchase or offset the cost of the new generator. No votes were taken on this issue.

Four-wheel Residential Utility Vehicle (RTV)

Chelsea has requested an RTV be purchased for the WPCF. The vehicle would safely transport heavier items around the WPCF and plow and sand the plant's operational area. Currently, these functions are all done by manual labor. It is neither safe nor efficient to use manual labor. No votes were taken on this issue.

500 Avenue A RFP

Walter was unable to provide an update on the 500 Avenue A RFP. The bids were due back that day. The subsequent discussion will be held on Wednesday, January 5, at the next CIC meeting.

Fred Bowman moved for adjournment at 4:35 PM. Jason Burbank seconded the motion.