

Minutes
Capital Improvement Committee
November 29, 2021

Attending: Kathy Logue, Bruce Stone, Clark Rattet, Cindy Mitchell, Maria McFarland*, Joe Tierney*, Matt Merry (*not present for entire meeting)

Absent: Richard Knabel

The meeting opened at 4:35 pm.

The minutes of October 19, 2021 meeting were approved by roll call vote with Matt Merry abstaining.

The committee proceeded through the updates of what they had learned thus far:

- Maria reported she was still waiting to hear back from Affordable Housing and CPC.
- Cindy said that Mill Brook Watershed would be asking for more funds, exact amount to be determined. Also, TriTown Ambulance Committee would be meeting the following week and she would have more info after that.
- Clark reported that the high school plans to spend \$828,000 for 9 bus leases, and some interior systems upgrades, mowers, and cafeteria/kitchen equipment; however, all of these items are built into the annual budget through assessments.
- Matt reported that Complete Streets is working on a lot of projects, but has no new requests for this year. He also reported that Richie is currently getting bids on a new tractor – his request will likely be \$145,000 or so.

[Joe joined the meeting.]

- Bruce noted that funding has been approved for road work on Indian Hill Road, but no funds have been spent yet.

[Maria left the meeting.]

- Bruce reported that the police are on target in terms of timing to replace two police cruisers every three years, but the most recent vehicle was more expensive, so future annual requests should increase by \$5,000. The WTPD is researching body cams, but will make no request this year, as some grants are available.
- Bruce noted that the fire department has appropriated \$200,000 of a likely \$500,000 toward the next fire truck. He will be meeting with the fire chief next week and will find out more specifics on the timing of when that will be needed. Kathy noted that \$100,000 of the funds voted already were not put into the stabilization fund, in case they were needed suddenly for safety upgrades required by OSHA, etc. Joe noted that there should be grants available for those kinds of equipment, and Kathy said she would follow up.

- Joe said that the town facilities committee is recommending a request for another \$100,000 year toward upcoming improvements, including trim replacement and painting at Fire Station #1, and the Mill Pond building, a new generator for Fire Station #1, painting at Town Hall, etc. He also noted that there were a lot of issues with the HVAC system and the fire alarm system at the library, currently underway with funds already appropriated.
- Kathy reported that the Energy Committee's work on resilience will cause some future expenses, but they have yet to be quantified. The biggest likely needs for resilience – the public safety building, the school, and Fire Station #1 – were also the town's biggest energy users. The West Tisbury School is pursuing a \$50,000 engineering study that will help to lay out the work needed to make the school 100% renewable by 2040. The goal is to ask for feasibility study money (the next step) at the 2022 annual meeting, but they do not yet have a good estimate on that cost. They are also exploring the possibility of adding battery/energy storage to the solar array at the landfill.

Overall concerns include the ongoing systems problems at the library – a building that is not yet 10 years old, as well as the lack of constructive progress on a plan for the high school. Clark noted that the recent findings on air quality in the high school were very alarming, and he was very concerned about the building and the students and staff within it. He stressed that it was past time for all six towns to come back to the table and work cooperatively toward a solution, and planned to put pressure through the FinComs. Kathy noted that until all six towns are behind it, MSBA funding will not be approved, and she was also concerned that Tisbury has just signed up for a very expensive school of their own and are unlikely to support another big project soon. Cindy noted that the initiative would probably have to come from the Select Boards, rather than within the school.

The next meeting was confirmed for Monday December 20th at 4:30 PM via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Logue

Approved December 20, 2021