

Minutes
Capital Improvement Committee
November 13, 2023

Members Attending: Kathy Logue, Bruce Stone, Matt Merry, Larry Schubert, Clark Rattet, Richard Andre and Richard Knabel

Absent: Cindy Mitchell and Joe Tierney

The meeting opened at 4:32 pm.

The minutes of October 16, 2023 were approved by roll call vote unanimously, except that Matt Merry had not yet joined the meeting.

Clark said his only new update from the schools thus far was about \$100,000 in flooring at the high school, and a plan to buy two new electric buses at \$185,000 each. He does not yet know if these are part of their annual budget or if any will require warrant articles. There are several budget hearings coming up in the next few weeks.

Richard Knabel confirmed that there is nothing new planned for the Refuse District.

Larry said he is not yet caught up with the Affordable Housing and CPA projects. The 401 State Road project is moving forward, with the stated purpose being occupancy by those 55 and over; they are sorting out some issues with town preference for applicants. He does not know yet what kind of funding the project may be hoping for from WT.

Bruce called attention to the spreadsheet he had forwarded around earlier that day from the Fire Chief, showing anticipated vehicle needs going out even beyond five years. He noted, however, that the biggest and most immediate priority was the need to repair or replace the apparatus bay exhaust systems in both fire stations as they are not currently functioning as they should. The two systems' setups should essentially be swapped, but it is not yet known if any of the existing equipment could be reused, and the cost for this is still unknown. The firefighter's' civic association has just taken care of the rescue boat purchase, so the focus for vehicles is to find a replacement – hopefully used – for the dive team support vehicle (currently an old ambulance) and to expand the fleet for the anticipated new F/T Fire Protection Officer position for FY2026. Bruce noted that Greg felt the continued \$100,000/year for fire equipment was adequate to meet these needs. In addition, he reported that Greg felt that the roof was not yet in need of replacement, except if needed for a solar array and the dorm idea is in abeyance right now, because it is not clear the structure can support it.

Richard Andre pointed out that OSHA worker safety grant(s) may pay for most or all of the exhaust systems issues; hydrant funds might pay for as much as 75% of what is needed for new hydrant lots. Richard Knabel asked if there was yet an idea of the

dollar magnitude and the answer was no. Richard Andre also noted that they are beginning to think about having three Level 2 chargers online within the next 3-5 years for public safety use, and that the planning for that should be linked to the planning for newer vehicles other than fire trucks. Matt Merry asked if a 40-year life was reasonable and/or legal. Kathy said it was a good question, but we had replaced trucks from the 1980s very shortly before Many Estrella's retirement. Richard Andre noted that in the case of public safety, plug in hybrids were as far as they would be able to go.

Bruce mentioned that it might be good to think in terms of a feasibility study to sort out the PSB roof, dormer, chargers, etc. so that things proceed in the right order and direction.

Matt Merry said that Complete Streets is still working on the plan for a path along Old County, but is not in need of further funding at this time. He also reported that the Highway department will need another new truck soon. Kathy noted that we had been planning on a new pickup and a new dump truck, and noted that with Richie retiring soon, that is coming up.

Larry asked whether any Level 3 chargers were planned. Richard Andre said not at this time, that he was aware of.

Kathy reported that Animal Control is looking at a new vehicle, but at least a year or two out. She also pointed out that there is always the possibility that we will have to come up with an alternative plan for a pound, if Animal Health Care (AHCA) closes. Richard Knabel noted the 40-year leases at the airport are coming up and that may lead to quite a few changes, including the AHCA property.

Bruce noted that Richie Olsen has a road project or two in the works, but there are Ch. 90 funds on hand to pay for them.

The next meeting was confirmed for November 27th.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Logue

Approved December 11, 2023