

Minutes  
Capital Improvement Committee  
December 11, 2023

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Members Attending: Kathy Logue, Bruce Stone, Matt Merry, Larry Schubert, Clark Rattet, Richard Andre, Joe Tierney and Cindy Mitchell

Absent: Richard Knabel

The meeting opened at 4:34 pm.

The minutes of November 13, 2023 were approved by roll call vote, unanimously of those present at that time: Kathy Logue, Bruce Stone, Larry Schubert, Clark Rattet, Richard Andre, and Cindy Mitchell.

Larry reported on the Affordable Housing 401 State Road project; it is still in the design and budgeting phase. It appears to be unclear whether they will be going in the direction of IHT soliciting CPA funding from many towns, or just with West Tisbury. Part of the issue is which town(s) will get any preference for applicants. He does not know yet what kind of funding the project may be hoping for from WT. While Bruce is aware of a request to our CPA committee for a little over \$1 million, the remainder of the budget is not clear.

[Matt Merry and Joe Tierney joined the meeting.]

Larry said he would prefer to see us continue to work regionally. Joe said he thought it should be up to the voters. Matt asked if West Tisbury alone had enough residents over 55 to fill the proposed units – and is there a list of such people needing housing that is available?

Richard Andre confirmed that there is nothing new for the library – just the HVAC repair that is still in the planning phase. He also raised the issue of whether there should be a formal feasibility study for the fire portion of the public safety building, given the need for resiliency there, a need for sleeping quarters for EMTs, and the restricted septic capacity. It was the consensus of the committee that we should recommend that the Select Board appoint a committee to work all the intersecting issues on this property and try to come up with a proposal that may lead to a formal feasibility study/phase. There should be involvement from the other two up-island towns, as the ambulance service will continue to drive some of what is needed. Joe mentioned that there should be some firefighter safety grant funding available for the needed exhaust work at both fire stations, and he believed that the local match requirement was only 10%.

Cindy confirmed that the TriTown Ambulance debt will hit the FY 2025 budget, but the exact amount is still not known.

Kathy asked Joe what some of the intended projects were for this year's \$100,000 request from the facilities maintenance committee. Joe said fire alarm systems in both fire stations, as well as the exhaust ventilation systems were a priority, as well as painting the exterior of the Town Hall building which they estimate will cost \$35-45,000.

Matt reported that the Highway department definitely wants a new truck, but he was not sure whether it would be a regular pickup or a larger truck. The Complete Streets project on Old County is still in the planning/design phase.

Bruce said he nothing new to report.

Clark reported that all of the high school capital items are within the HS budget this year, including some new electric school buses. The Up-Island budget meetings still haven't nailed down their capital items entirely, although there was definitely talk of where a universal preschool would be housed, if it were to go forward. Matt asked about the status of the high school project, and Clark and others reported that the feasibility study was underway and there would likely be a reimbursement rate from the State of approximately 40%. Matt asked if we could influence leaning toward building new, and then moving in (and tearing down the old afterwards), rather than trying to renovate that building. Kathy also noted that housing the high school temporarily if there was a renovation of the existing building would literally be millions. It was reported that the feasibility study is looking at all of those options.

Bruce noted the schools alone were increasing the town budget for FY 2025 by over 8%, and the COLA was 4.8%, so it was going to be a tricky year.

The next meetings were scheduled for January 22<sup>nd</sup> and February 5<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Logue

*Approved February 12, 2024*