

CIP Committee
Draft Minutes
Wednesday, August 20, 2014
6:30 pm

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm in the Fire Station Meeting Room

Present: Steve Felton, Kendall Hughes, Susan MacLeod, David Toth; Absent: Ingrid Heidenreich
Also Present: Tim Joubert, Fran Newton, Lee Nichols

1. Fire Department, Apparatus Committee: Tim Joubert presented a report (attached) from the committee reflecting its effort to accurately assess the condition of all of the department's apparatus and the options for repairing/replacing it with those costs and timelines. After independent professional assessments, it has been determined that Engine 2 should be replaced first, even though Engine 1 is the older of the two. It was a demo vehicle when purchased new and does not have the quality body of the Mack Engine 1, so the major issue is corrosion of the body which also impacts the electrical system. The committee is refining a complete spec for a replacement to best serve the needs for a projected 25 years. Trying to keep the tax rate level was a major consideration when looking at financing options. With the last lease/purchase payment made on the ladder truck, finding a similar amount to carry for the next vehicle would not add to the rate. Grants were discussed: the USDA grants cover 20% of total cost, are based on the demographics of applicants, and are easier to obtain than the "Fire Act" grants which cover 95%, but traditionally have not been given for large equipment, and are highly competitive. The process: Warrant article to approve expenditure, specs go out to bid, when awarded it will take one year for truck to be built and delivered. Payment options include making a payment when awarding, upon delivery (approved warrant is a guarantee of payment), or making pre-payments. There is also a bid process through the state that is generally faster although build time is the same. Engine 1 should still get the recommended engine overhaul by Mack (~\$5,000-8,000); if the tank packing and crack repair is done, total may be ~\$20,000 and the time it is out of service must be considered. The department uses the industry guideline formula to determine when it is no longer worth repairing. Engines have no trade-in value—either get sold as is or for scrap. Consequence if it went totally out of service, for situations with no hydrants, mutual aid would have to be called. That is a short-term solution (1 year or less), and the rating for fire coverage decreasing impacts homeowners' insurance rates. The Committee ran 4 options for purchasing one and/or two vehicles with 5- or 10-year leases to come up with the most cost effective choices.

The ambulance will last if the bodywork is done. Considering it for a revenue source as transport not feasible with call-in volunteers and Ashland doesn't have the volume of calls to make enough income beyond expenses for doing it. Combining with Holderness and negotiating with Plymouth regarding staffing and revenue-sharing is a good option that will take time and effort to pursue.

The Apparatus Committee will meet with the CIP again, as well as going to the BOS to present all the options and determine the best one for the Town. Also desires to present at the public forum and work on information for dissemination prior to voting day. Tim Joubert gave the committee a brief inspection tour of the equipment.

2. Emergency Management: Lee Nichols briefly stopped in to propose a back-up generator for the school with estimated cost of \$17-18,000; 50% FEMA funds, 25% from SAU and 25% from Town.

3. Review of Spreadsheet: Dave updated numbers and incorporated links to the worksheets and pertinent minutes. Committee reviewed all information submitted from FD and SAU to have latest numbers in the year of need; Town Office projects submitted were consolidated; will break down into annual increments after all costs are in. In addition, Dave set up a cost benefit analysis of lease vs purchase options for Police Dept. including tax rate impacts. He will now do the same with the Fire Dept. This information will be used for the public presentation as it best shows the financial costs of each option. **Currently still to come: FD: Any expenses other than apparatus; Park & Rec. Dept.: dredge and**

fill numbers; Library: confirm amount to be requested on warrant to start a capital reserve for facility; DPW: revise costs and years for all equipment, road works and coordinated paving projects. This information also will be useful for discussions with Utility Partners. Town Office: any other capital projects in next 10 years? SAU: confirm electronic safety enhancements and exterior door replacements completed or funded. W&S: updated projects and costs.

Next Meeting: September 4, 6:30 pm at the Fire Station. Work on Spreadsheet and recommendations

9:12 pm: Motion to Adjourn; All in favor.

Notes by Susan MacLeod