

Minutes

Capital Planning Committee

March 1, 2018

Present: Steve Jelinek, Dave Arsenault, Jim Salvie. Absent: Julianne North

Mr. Jelinek opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The committee members first discussed the prior Tuesday's "joint boards" meeting at the Selectmen's meeting. In the absence of Mr. Jelinek, Mr. Salvie had reported for the Committee.

Recreation

The Committee first met with Laura Greenough, director of the Recreation Department. The Rec. Department has no capital request for fiscal 2019 and the Committee reviewed with her the Department's requests in its five year plan. Among other things, the Committee discussed with Mr. Greenough the Department's plans for the Pompositticut soccer field and its desire for a passenger van to transport children from the schools to Pompo for after school recreation activities.

Stow TV

Anne Van Tine from Stow TV met with the Committee and described its desire for a new "anycast" video mixer. Stow TV currently has two mixers and will most likely move one permanently to Pompo, since a fair number of meetings occur there. (The other appears to be at the Stow TV office in the Town Building and is used to record meetings at the Town Building.) They will need another one "for the field," i.e. a mobile one to take to other events.

The Committee reminded Ms. Van Tine that she had made the same request last year, for \$12,000, and that that request was approved by Town Meeting. Ms. Van Tine was under the impression that that appropriation would expire at the end of fiscal 2018 so she had to make another request if she was not going to buy the mixer before then. The Committee expressed doubt that that was true and asked her to check with the Town Administrator. If last year's appropriation does not expire, it is expected that this request will be withdrawn.

Fire Department.

Chief Joe Landry described his request for a new "command vehicle," i.e. chief's car. He emphasized that the command vehicle is fully equipped to act as a command center in the field and does so on a regular basis. The current vehicle, a Ford Explorer, is eight years old and has about 98,000 miles on it. The estimated purchase price is approximately \$45,000 complete with laptops and other equipment (the "command box" accounts for approximately \$5,000). He estimates that there is "almost no trade in." The Committee questioned whether this purchase could wait a year since the mileage is not that bad (and the Chief apparently puts only about 11,000 miles on it each year) and there is no trade in value. The Chief readily conceded that it could wait and there would be some risk of break-down but he has not seen any signs. There was some discussion about how the police were taking a "year off" their vehicle purchases while the most that could be expected here was to simply postpone a purchase.

With regard to the five year plan, there are some expensive engine replacements coming up, notably Engine 14 in 2020 for approximately \$600,000. Chief Landry noted that in the early 2000s Chief Soar had to replace a lot of equipment at the same time and that Chief Landry is trying to space out the replacements for that equipment, which is all approaching 20 years old.

Cemetery

The Committee met with Cemetery Supervisor G.H. Gledhill and Cemetery Board member Kenny Banks. The Cemetery Department is proposing \$50,000 in the fiscal 2019 capital plan for design of a new building at the Brookside Cemetery. In response to the Committee's questions Mr. Gledhill itemized the equipment that the Department owns: two Kubota snow blowers, a one ton truck with a plow, a trailer for the truck, a leaf sucker and box, a hydroseeder, two John Deere tractors, and two zero turn mowers. With the exception of the zero turn mowers and the tractors this equipment is all housed currently at the former fire station on Crescent Street. Mr. Gledhill pointed out that they had no room to work on the equipment and no service bays but agreed that the Highway Department would maintain his equipment and he could work on it on the apron in front of the station, as the fire fighters did. Mr. Gledhill and Mr. Banks expressed interest in having a better office to meet with families but conceded that most people want to see the site. They expressed a need for bathrooms. The Committee expressed doubt that a need for bathrooms and better office space (Mr. Gledhill has or soon will have office space in the old fire station) currently justifies a 7200 sq ft building. Mr. Jelinek pointed out that the August 2017 report from the Building Re-Use Task Force recommended at least trying out the current arrangement for the foreseeable future. Mr. Gledhill and Mr. Banks, though not agreeing, intended to withdraw their request in light of the unlikelihood of the Committee's support.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James H. Salvie