

LITCHFIELD CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019  
LITCHFIELD TOWN OFFICE BUILDING – 7:00 P.M.

**Call to Order:** Chairman Fran Carpentier called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. All members were present: Fran Carpentier, Barbara Putnam, Michael Kostecki, Sean Fogarty, Raz Alexe, Jim Koser, John Morosani, Amaechi Obi, Erich Marriott (Board of Finance appointee) and Denise Raap.

**Approve Minutes**

**a) Regular 11/26/19: Motion:** J. Morosani moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of 11/26/19 and J. Koser seconded. All voted aye except E. Marriott, who abstained because it was prior to his appointment, and the motion carried.

**Review Requests**

**a) Public Works**

Raz Alexe summarized his bio and work history and listed his staff and work accomplished at Public Works. He explained that between 2006 and 2015, there was very limited work done on the roads, so he devised a 7-year program to bring the infrastructure up to date. We are now starting the fifth year. He pointed out a summary sheet that showed the last 5 years of money that was put into each project, so it could be compared to this year's and future requests.

**Bridges Less than 20 ft.**

Culvert Sleeving & Repair: They are requesting \$250,000 to do 3-4 culverts.

**Bridges Greater than 20 ft.**

The last four bridges greater than a 20 ft. span are preservation bridges listed for repair: Duck Pond, East Litchfield Rd., Sawmill Road and Wheeler Road. Total is \$1.4 million of which we have to allocate 20%, or \$280,000. Prior work has been done, so we need just over \$100,000 total this year. Duck Pond is a replacement; the rest are reinforcements. We spend the money and then get reimbursed.

**Bridges between 6 and 20 ft.**

These are bridges that are flagged by DOT and must be addressed because of scouring. Headquarters Road Bridge #073-003 has had a lot of trouble in the last few years. Water goes from the wetlands into a culvert into Mr. Latos' fire pond, through Mr. Eanes' private double-pipe culvert and into the Marshapaug River. Because of restrictions on the private property pipes, he cannot accommodate a larger bridge. He thinks he can do a dual pipe system that will cost under \$110,000 instead of the \$254,400 listed on the yellow request sheet.

**Vehicles & Equipment**

R. Alexe showed members a written explanation on the merits of buying vs renting equipment, and they took a minute to read it. The pickup truck was totaled by a tree falling on it. Insurance paid \$13,705 and along with this request for \$18,500, they will be able to get another truck. The Fire Marshal is using a 2002 pickup truck that was gifted by the Bantam Fire Co.

The sweeper has been in the works for a long while. The rental from the NHCOC is defective and often not available when needed. They tested one, but it was not the right one for a rural environment, as it kept getting clogged. They are going back to the DOT product that he recommends. It is the third most-used piece of equipment. The Town owned a sweeper until about ten years ago, and we really need one. We could rent ours out to another Town for revenue. F. Carpentier suggested renting from a large construction

company, and R. Alexe thought they would require an insurance certificate and guarantee that we would repair in house if damaged. Mr. Carpentier said he is struggling with how we would use a sweeper 60 days a year. He presented his calculations and asked Mr. Alexe to further quantify his backup argument. Mr. Alexe said there are factors that create gaps in his theory. Secondly it is hard to get a rental for 28 consecutive days without a hitch with equipment failure and repairs, and third is availability. We pay a premium to the chip sealing company to use their sweeper, as we need a sweeper on short notice for this operation. He said he would easily double Mr. Carpentier's calculation estimate for these reasons. The price of \$310,000 for the sweeper is without the vac-all option.

R. Alexe said they have had a hard time getting parts for our 30-year-old chipper. It is also not as safe to use as it should be. There are 1,300 ash trees identified so far to take down. He said he is not comfortable with a five-year trend and would like to go to a ten-year trend and reassess. They had two successful auctions to clean up the yard, making \$47,655. He will be sure to auction old equipment when new replacements are purchased.

#### Town Aid Roads

R. Alexe explained that Town Aid Roads (TAR) and Local Capital Improvement Program (LOCIP) are both annual State grants. This year, 2019-20, there was no money from the State. This is essential funding for the Town. Without this money he cannot do all the chip/crack sealing, shimming and prep for all the roads, averaging 15 miles per year.

#### Major Roads

Bantam Lake Road Water Issue: Raz explained that water from 100 acres collects in back of the Bantam Cinema and creates flooding in an uncontrollable surface flow. He is seeking money for a preliminary design and an A2 survey and to check legal implications on soliciting easements to solve this issue. He is asking for \$35,000 for this phase.

Fern Avenue is an STP (surface transportation rural program) project, with a grant initiated through the NHCOC. We are on the list to receive \$500,000 for Fern Ave. for 1.8 miles of road. We would need \$100,000 for our contribution to cover the next layer of design.

Moosehorn Road is a LOTCIP (local transportation capital improvement program). We secured \$1 million and submitted the grant application through the NHCOC to DOT. We will need \$750,000 to finish the project if we accept the \$1,000,000. They are asking for the second installment of \$250,000. They are close to going to the semi-final design.

North Shore Road (1.62 miles) will get some LOCIP money if we get it. This road is a point of attraction for the town and a cut-through. If we don't address it, there will be some problems, as it is in bad shape.

Old Mt. Tom Road has a serious condition with erosion and rocks. We almost lost a truck and residents have a hard time. We will need to pave about 400 linear feet and will do it in-house. They are asking for \$25,000.

Old Smith Road said the residents have been suffering with an 18% slope for a half mile on a dirt road. All Star Transportation's Safety Department sent a note that they are no longer willing to send school busses on that road. An interlocal agreement has been signed with Thomaston to share the cost, which will be 30% from Thomaston. The estimated cost is \$600,000, and they will put \$180,000 into capital. The \$420,000 in the request is our 70%. Thomaston will also cover 30% of the maintenance going forward.

South Lake Street saw a major upgrade on the water main. Because of poor compaction by Aquarion, drainage is in poor condition. All catch basins are damaged and resurfacing is needed between Russell Street and half way to Route 202. He is recommending \$217,955 for 2020/21, with Aquarion having paid 50%, or \$105,383 in 2019/20.

Drainage in the back of Town Hall is coming from a property on North Street, through a swale on our property, but we have no drainage system. Because of the raised skating rink, we are creating an adverse impact to some abutting residents on Spencer Street and for us, so it has to be fixed. We will do an A2 survey (\$15,000) and will design in-house. He plans to do the work next year at about \$95,000.

#### Ash Trees

There are 1,320 identified ash trees in the right of way in addition to the tree list we already have. Raz is seeking a State grant for help with ash trees, with lobbying from CCM. Raz did not put in for it this year, as he anticipates possible State help next year. Without it, we will have to do something. We easily use \$105,000 per year for tree work, 120-140 trees/year. We cannot budget additional for ash trees.

#### Facilities - Town

R. Alexe reviewed the items in the Annex and Town Hall list totaling \$224,000 that has been deferred pending decisions on the buildings. Are we going to put money into these ailing buildings is the question.

Public Works Software: He explained software modules built by the IT people to best serve their needs at Public Works (\$10,000). GIS has been implemented, and they are now working on the stormwater layer (\$20,000).

Recycling Center: They are asking \$30,000 for a replacement fence to protect all the work that has been done. This will cover the front and about halfway up each side.

Truck Wash: Raz said he cannot wash the trucks at the garage as it is in an aquifer, river and wetlands area. It would cost \$900,000 and they could wash all town vehicles and school busses. B. Putnam suggested seeking an environmental grant. They are asking for \$35,000 for a Phase I design and permitting.

Public Works Garage Flooring: R. Alexe said they would like to put vinyl flooring on the concrete floors (\$16,500).

#### Facilities – BOE

Sidewalks: Len Fasano, Facilities manager for the schools, explained replacement of sidewalk sections near the tennis courts and baseball field as well as curbing in front of the LHS/LMS parking lots. He is asking for consideration, as this is a safety issue (\$90,000). D. Raap asked about the material not lasting long from the last job, and Mr. Alexe said the workmanship was poor.

HVAC Rooftop Unit & Support Curbing over Kitchen: This is the only source of heat in the LHS/LMS kitchen and is beyond its useful life and is not cost effective to repair. They leave the doors open at night to prevent possible temperature drops in the kitchen that could cause sprinkler lines to freeze and crack.

LCS Replacement of Carpets in two Classrooms, Remediate Glue and Install Plywood Subflooring with a Cold Welded Vinyl Finished Layer: The current carpet is 30 years old and is fraying and ripping, causing a safety hazard. L. Fasano showed photos of the damage as well as the flooring. This includes asbestos abatement before the flooring can be done.

**b) Review All Submitted Requests:** F. Carpentier said the wrap-up meeting is scheduled for next week. We are at about \$3.3 million now, and the goal is to get under \$3 million.

**Adjournment: Motion:** R. Alexe moved to adjourn at 8:58 p.m., and M. Kostecki seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

  
Denise Raap, Secretary