

**LITCHFIELD CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2021 – 7:00 P.M.
LITCHFIELD FIREHOUSE, 258 WEST STREET
IN PERSON AND REMOTELY VIA ZOOM**

1. Call to Order: First Selectman and Acting Chairman Denise Raap called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with members Erich Marriott, Sean Fogarty, Michael Kostecki, Amaechi Obi and Raz Alexe present. Fran Carpentier and John Morosani attended via Zoom, and James Koser was absent.

2. Approve Minutes

a) Special 11/16/21: Motion: R. Alexe moved and S. Fogarty seconded a motion to approve the special meeting minutes of November 16, 2021. All voted aye except J. Morosani, who abstained because of absence, and the motion carried.

It was agreed to change the meeting schedule to accommodate discussion of BOE Interior and Oliver Wolcott Library on December 28th.

3. Traffic Safety Community Action Group Presentation: Jodi Tenney said there were two separate requests. First, priority #1 was a corridor study for the central area of town for which we got a grant from the DOT for a Road Safety Audit. The result was they recommended a more in-depth traffic study because it is such a complex area with many arteries coming into the center of town and encompassing the historic green. The total cost estimate is \$100,000, and they are asking for \$50,000 and are also applying for a Scherr-Thoss grant. They will also ask the State for its help. They need a plan prior to the State paving the roads in three years.

The second request is for multiple safety improvements, many on State roads and around the green. R. Alexe said a traffic study for a town this size, with all its intersections, is from \$150,000 - \$200,000. This traffic study is solely for the core of the Borough where the most congestion is. Therefore they are reducing the scope to \$100,000. The \$50,000 is not a large amount to ask to get the information they need. F. Carpentier asked if we could expect the State to pay the whole cost, since the roads are State roads. D. Raap was not hopeful. The other half, or \$50,000, from this request will be deferred to the 23/24 Capital year.

Motion: F. Carpentier moved to add additional items to this agenda for the Fire Commission. M. Kostecki seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Fire Commission Additional Requests: S. Fogarty noted a couple additions from the ARPA funding. First they are asking for help for the second floor construction of the Northfield Firehouse. Northfield Fire is putting up \$50,000 and has \$75,000 from a Scherr-Thoss grant. They are hoping for a matching grant of \$225,000 from Jahana Hayes from the "Build Back Better" act. They are asking for \$50,000 from Capital to close the gap to finish the second floor. The Selectmen voted to use \$50,000 from the ARPA money, and it must be approved by the Board of Finance and Capital. R. Alexe said they are so overdue for full use of their building, and this will finally help them finish. Second, Mr. Fogarty mentioned the LFD building upgrade cost has been updated to \$266,048 to complete the project. They are seeking \$66,048 in ARPA funds in addition to the \$200,000 from Capital to get the work done. Finally, Mr. Fogarty said ELFD's apparatus bay ceiling add-on duct system work is quoted at \$30,300 and would tie well into the ceiling replacement. They are asking for the \$30,300 through the ARPA funds. They are still asking for the \$25,000 from Capital for the ceiling job.

4. Review Public Works Requests: R. Alexe noted that Facilities - School Maintenance was extracted from the total, revising the total to \$2,869,600.

Bridges

They are requesting \$250,000 for culvert sleeving and repair on three large culverts: Brush Hill at Duck Pond Road, Marsh Road, and Richards Road. Of the four bridges left, Perkins Road and Blakeslee Road are isolated so not a worry. Norfolk Road bridge and Milton Road at Beach St. are scheduled to be done in the future. In five years we will be caught up and in maintenance mode.

Vehicles

Because of the VW grant, R. Alexe explained that we qualify for replacement of active diesel dump trucks replacement swap for new, much improved trucks for up to 35% paid. He put together the grant for 3 trucks, but does not yet know the outcome. The goal would be to get 3 trucks and have the active fleet for the nine major routes with the all-season bodies instead of the drop-in sanders.

Roads

R. Alexe noted the Town Aid allotment from the State for 2022/23 is \$383,844, which comes in two installments. This money compliments the operating budget, and is not capital per se, and not bonded.

The 30-year program pace was explained by R. Alexe. In 21/22 year we were allocated \$1.5 million, and we will have used \$2.8 million by the end of the fiscal year, very close to target. We are able to continue this program with clear improvements to bring it to a satisfactory level and then coast with maintenance. Part comes from capital, but much comes from grants, \$4.4 million for 20/21.

R. Alexe then explained the Bantam water issue behind the Bantam Cinema. They are looking for money to fund design and do proper paperwork and permits for 22/23 in the amount of \$200,000. He estimates the cost of this project from \$1.5 million to \$2.5 million. It is a very complex challenge involving 95 acres with flooding. They have already invested \$35,000 in preliminary study.

Mr. Alexe said Campville Road will require \$157,700 and already has a preliminary design. Drainage has been done in house. This project qualifies for an STP grant of \$577,000.

Fern Avenue has STP money available for this project, and \$197,112 more will finish the road to mill and overlay.

Marsh Road between Kennedy Road and Campville Road needs attention because of heaves in the winter. The money he is asking for (\$321,557) is for drainage and paving.

Moosehorn Road is considered a major collector and has a LOTCIP grant of \$1,499,000. The \$25,000 is the difference in what the drainage costs and the grant does not cover for the Moosehorn/Turner Road area.

Naser Road is a large project and a complicated matter with a lot of water coming into back yards. They are working on survey scope now and will have drainage plans by end 2022. Project will commence in the spring of 2023. Amount needed is \$299,021.

Reder Road has serious drainage issues and needs \$282,839.

Spencer Street is in dire straits and needs a catch basin, mill and overlay. Request is for \$55,288.

Tallmadge Lane was chip-sealed 3½ years ago and now needs a mill and overlay, but this can be pushed another year if needed.

F. Carpentier's only concern was that the Public Works total proposed cost is almost \$3 million. Since they are trying to keep the total Capital budget to \$2 - \$3 million, and it currently stands at \$4.15 million, he asked that consideration be given by Raz to recommend some cut-backs. R. Alexe said Tallmadge Ave. can be pushed, and he will give consideration to other areas.

5. Adjournment: Motion: J. Morosani moved and S. Fogarty seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. All voted in favor and the motion passed.



Denise Raap
Secretary