

**LITCHFIELD CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022 – 7:00 P.M.
IN PERSON AT LITCHFIELD FIREHOUSE, 258 WEST STREET AND
REMOTE MEETING BY LIVE INTERNET VIDEO STREAM AND TELEPHONE**

Call to Order: Chairman Fran Carpentier called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Members present were James Koser, Michael Kostecki, Sean Fogarty, Raz Alexe, Erich Marriott, Denise Raap, and via Zoom were Fran Carpentier and Amaechi Obi. John Morosani was absent.

Approve Minutes

a) Regular 12/28/21: Motion: M. Kostecki moved to approve the regular meeting minutes from the 12/28/21 meeting. S. Fogarty seconded, all voted in favor and the motion carried.

Review All Submitted Requests: F. Carpentier said the ultimate goal would be to have bonding to finance capital projects somewhere between \$2 - \$3 million. The figure now stands at more than \$4 million. After many calculations and discussions, the Fire Commission's proposed total cost is adjusted to \$711,048. Total requests equal \$4,091,966. There is \$500,000 available as pay-as-you-go money from the medical self insurance reserve fund left over from when we were self insured. D. Raap questioned whether that money should be used for insurance, and A. Obi said it can be used for the CIP. D. Raap said the auditor recommended we need to reduce the general fund (23%) to 15% - 18%. Could we take more than \$500,000 from the General Fund for pay-as-you-go? F. Carpentier said perhaps, but if we could use the insurance money and reduce projects by \$600,000 or \$700,000, we would be under the maximum \$3 million threshold requested by the Board of Finance. We may be able to do even more with pay-as-you-go if we have a surplus at the end of the fiscal year. Tonight we should consider reducing this budget by \$600,000. The group then reviewed each of the remaining departments.

Board of Education: R. Alexe had a question on whether the LIS gym items should come from this budget, but although they are not part of the actual structure of the building, they meet all other criteria. All agreed after discussion to preliminarily approve all requests for a total of \$275,000.

Oliver Wolcott Library Generator: J. Morosani said he would contact Seherr-Thoss about a grant for this purpose. F. Carpentier felt this should be researched a little more to see if there are other grant monies available. For this reason he will say no to this request for \$60,318. M. Kostecki said there are cheaper ways to protect stacks in the basement, and found this hard to justify.. S. Fogarty said he could not envision people wanting to visit the library during the height of bad storms. J. Koser also felt that Seherr-Thoss might fund this. R. alexe was in favor in order to expand OWL's programs, but he would encourage them to do more research to seek other grants. E. Marriott was in favor of having the library as a wifi hub. D. Raap was in favor as long as they first look into Seherr-Thoss funding. She added that they always close if the weather is inclement. F. Carpentier summarized that most all members denied the request for this year but would consider it for next year if they look for other alternatives in the meantime.

Police: D. Raap said there are only 44,000 miles on the vehicle, so Trooper Holm agreed to push to next year the \$47,000 request for replacement of the 2017 Ford interceptor.

Board of Fire & EMS: F. Carpentier recapped the totals for the departments' requests. In an attempt to cut back, he saw no other way but to eliminate the LFD apparatus ramp from this budget and consider it later. D. Raap said Chief Rogers had offered this suggestion, so she and the others agreed. E. Marriott said that since the E. Litchfield apparatus bay ceiling would be covered by ARPA funds, it should also be taken out. It was then settled that they would approve all projects but the LFD ramp that would be revisited later.

Park and Recreation: E. Marriott took exception to the expense of a Park & Rec vehicle. R. Alexe said there will be a pickup truck and the van to use, so there should be options. He also felt the community field pavilion figure is too low and should be deferred and re-evaluated. The other agreed, and S. Fogarty thanked Raz for pointing out there would be a pickup available for Park & Rec's use soon. F. Carpentier recapped that the consensus is that the \$15,000 for the pavilion and the \$34,000 would be taken out.

Thus far, the following projects have been eliminated:

ELFD Apparatus Bay Ceiling	\$ 25,000
OWL Generator	60,318
Police Interceptor	47,000
LFD Apparatus Ramp	250,000
Park & Rec Vehicle	34,000
Community Field Pavilion	<u>15,000</u>
	\$431,318

Public Works: R. Alexe offered the following reductions from the DPW capital requests:

Bantam Road Study	\$ 33,000
Naser Road defer	200,000
Tallmadge Lane defer	<u>90,039</u>
	\$323,039

Finalize and Recommend: F. Carpentier summarized that total reductions totaled \$754,357. This would give us a capital budget of \$3.3 million. Using \$500,000 pay-as-you-go plus more from fund balance, the proposed budget could be in the mid to high \$2 million range. The amount to be bonded in August, 2022 would be \$3,337,609.

Motion: E. Marriott moved to present to the Board of Selectmen a Capital budget for FY 2022/23 in the amount of \$3,337,609. M. Kostecki seconded. All voted aye, and the motion passed.

Set 2023/24 CIP Meeting Schedule: F. Carpentier reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for CIP 2023/24 with dates from November 2022 to January 2023. **Motion:** E. Marriott moved to

approve the 2023/24 CIP meeting schedule as presented by F. Carpentier, and R. Alexe seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Adjournment: F. Carpentier thanked everyone for all the hard work and called the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.



Denise Raap
Secretary