

**LITCHFIELD CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.
LITCHFIELD FIREHOUSE, 258 WEST STREET**

Call to Order: Chairman Fran Carpentier called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Members present were Fran Carpentier, James Koser, Raz Alexe, Sean Fogarty, Michael Kostecki, Erich Marriott and Denise Raap.

Absent: Members absent were Amaechi Obi and John Morosani

Approve Minutes

a) Regular 12/27/22: D. Raap moved to approve the 12/27/22 minutes including a change of “Norwalk” to “Norwich” under the Public Works truck wash request. S. Fogarty seconded, all voted aye except E. Marriott, who abstained because of absence, and the motion passed.

F. Carpentier summarized the Oliver Wolcott Library’s request last year for \$60,318 for a generator, and we asked them to look for some grant money. They were able to get a grant and would like to come to the Town for the balance. **Motion:** R. Alexe moved and E. Marriott seconded a motion to add the Oliver Wolcott Library’s request as the next item on the agenda. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Oliver Wolcott Library Generator: D. Raap read the letter from the OWL requesting the balance of funds needed for an all building generator that cost \$60,318. They received a grant from Seherr-Thoss for \$30,318, so they are asking for \$30,000 from the Town. F. Carpentier read about the generator they have chosen from the 12/28/21 Capital minutes. There was debate last year, but the bottom line was they did secure additional funding as requested.

Finalize and Recommend 2023/24 CIP: F. Carpentier said the total capital requests now are \$6,283,183 less grants and funding, for a net Town cost of \$4,284,542. They then went through the departmental requests individually.

Fire and EMS Commission

F. Carpentier only had a concern with Northfield Engine 1. Having already started a discussion about reviewing all the equipment and facilities for all fire services in the Town, if we purchase this truck at \$850,000, is it possible that we would have a piece of equipment we would not need. John Campbell named the equipment that is needed, including this main pumper. He said they could hold onto their current pumper for another year, but it will eventually cost more money. He did not think we would be making a mistake by buying this equipment now. Jack Hodges spoke in support of Northfield Engine 1. Deferring the purchase one more year would add 10% to the price, and there may be additional piping issues if the purchase is pushed out another year, and

they do not have the money for those repairs. D. Raap said that A. Obi suggested that we bond half this year and half next year, as the delivery is two years out. J. Campbell said we would have to have a commitment. F. Carpentier suggested moving on to the other departments and come back to this after.

Facilities - Board of Education

F. Carpentier summarized the three requests totaling \$260,000. First is LHS/LMS boiler #3 replacement, \$120,000; second, LIS main hallway carpeting, \$60,000; and third, LCS main hallway carpeting \$80,000. R. Alexe said the boiler replacement is a must. He felt the carpeting was also pertinent and not to be deferred.

Facilities - Town

R. Alexe said the questionable items are the Town Hall restrooms, estimated at \$50,000, and the truck wash at \$350,000. That is \$400,000 out of the \$535,875, easily 75% of the money discussion. The other items he feels are necessary. F. Carpentier agreed and said the payback period is long on the truck wash. He said there is no viable plan for the Town Hall, and the bathrooms are functional. Others argued that the restrooms are a psychological comfort if they are more attractive. Many questions were asked about the truck wash.

Vehicles

Everyone was fine with the \$70,000 for the dump truck.

Bridge Program

Everyone was comfortable with the proposals totaling \$293,500. R. Alexe said one wild card is that we will not know until the end of January if the State will approve its \$280,000. They are so far behind, and if we don't get that, our number will be reduced to \$25,000 for the upcoming year.

Major Roads

R. Alexe said the wild card here is the Circle Drive Ext. and Highland Ave. project, as he has not yet come to terms with Aquarion (c/o Eversource) for restitution of the mess they made there. They have offered \$30,000 that was declined by Mr. Alexe, and he told them to come back with a decent number. So the \$291,703 may have to be deferred one more year.

F. Carpentier summarized that the wild cards would decrease the total. There is nothing for Park and Recreation or Police. They are on board with funding the balance of the generator for the OWL (\$30,000). Basing the cost on all requests plus \$30,000 for the OWL (total of \$4,314,542) and subtracting \$500,000 for self-insurance pay as you go, and \$1.4 million from fund balance (leaving fund balance at 18%), leaves \$2,414,542 to bond. In the meantime, before going to the Board of Selectmen, this leaves time for the answer from the State on the two wild card Public Works items and for clarification from the Finance Director on timing of bonding for Northfield Engine 1.

Motion: E. Marriott moved to approve the total capital budget cost of \$6,343,501, with a net town cost of \$4,314,542. J. Koser seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Set 2023/24 Meeting Schedule (for 2024/25 CIP)

Motion: R. Alexe moved and D. Raap seconded a motion to approve the draft Capital Improvements Committee's meeting schedule for next year. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Adjournment: Motion: D. Raap moved to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. and E. Marriott seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise Raap". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Denise Raap, Secretary