

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN

MINUTES

April 27, 2012

APPROVED: _____

AGENDA: TOUR OF PUBLIC WORKS

ATTENDING: Murray Campbell (Chairman), Steve Favorite, David Hill, Don
Milbrand, Dan Paradis, Joe Lukeman

ABSENT: John Bianchi (conflict)

OTHER: Mark Bucklin (Superintendent, Public Works)

The committee met at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Works Department office with Mr. Bucklin.

Sidewalk Tractor: Mr. Bucklin explained that the sidewalk tractor has broken down and damage was done to the transmission. In order to repair it, the whole underneath would need replacing. The tractor puts in hard hours and would only be reasonably used as a back-up. A new tractor with plow would cost about \$125,000. It would be more for one with a boomer mower. We receive \$2500. a week for renting the tractor for mowing.

Mr. Campbell asked Mr. Bucklin to look at the tractor in 2 ways: costs to repair and to buy new. When asked, Mr. Bucklin stated that a reconditioned tractor's warranty is almost the same as with a new one. He has looked at 3 or 4 outfits so far. We have 5' wide sidewalks and would like a tractor that is 6' wide. Mr. Campbell asked if he has had any discussions with Mike Vignalli (architect with the Downtown project) as to any changes to those sidewalks. Mr. Bucklin had not.

Mr. Bucklin feels that we should have a one-side sidewalk all the way to the ball field (on Summer St.). This would require some crosswalks here and there. A discussion was held as to sand filling of the tractor and that we have a couple of miles of sidewalk to be plowed. Mr. Campbell asked if the blower would fit a new machine and Mr. Bucklin answered only if we replace with another Caboda.

Mr. Campbell stated that the committee will need 3 estimates from Mr. Bucklin: cost to repair, to replace new, and for a refurbished tractor. Mr. Hill asked about resale or trade-in. Mr. Bucklin stated that we could get some back for that. He added that the tractor broke down while they were doing the sweeping but probably began when plowing.

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The list of other equipment was then looked at:

3 6-Wheel Dump Trucks: Mr. Campbell asked if the purchase of the 1996 is still necessary for 2013. Mr. Bucklin stated that it starts hard now and burns oil. He is waiting a complete report on it now. It can go as a back-up. Mr. Campbell explained to the new member that these trucks are on a 5 year replacement plan, replacing each every 15 years. Mr. Bucklin explained that he uses them for 10 years as frontline and then 5 years as back-up. The two frontline are used to plow; all 3 are used for gravel. He thinks

that \$135,000 will do for replacement. When asked, Mr. Bucklin stated that all 3 present trucks were purchased new. He has looked at remounting costs and they come out the same as new.

Mr. Hill asked if he can use the existing plow and Mr. Bucklin said that he will if he can. There is no real savings. Some of the plow blades have cracks in the outer surface. We have no Capital Reserve right now. Mr. Hill asked about Lease/Purchase. Mr. Bucklin stated that this is an option depending on the interest. Mr. Lukeman stated that a 2-year Lease/Purchase is best or you pay too much in interest. Mr. Campbell stated that the committee has only 3 options that they can recommend: The committee would like to recommend Capital Reserve for 4 years and purchase the 5th year. Mr. Lukeman suggested that they might want a Lease/Purchase for the sidewalk tractor. Mr. Bucklin thought that he might be able to hold the 2013 truck purchase for another year. Mr. Campbell mentioned that we do not want to do the same as the backhoe in which we spent all kinds of money for repairs and then it blew up and we had to purchase a new one after all.

2 550-Trucks & ¾ Pick-up: Mr. Bucklin stated that the ¾ pick-up is working out for them. The 3 trucks are on a 6 year replacement schedule. Mr. Campbell stated that the 2007 550-truck is due for replacement in 2015 and the 2009 in 2016. Mr. Bucklin stated that he would have to get closer to purchase time in order to know if any can be held off a year or so. As long as the vehicles remain reliable, he would like to keep them.

A discussion followed as to the importance of Capital Reserve accounts. Putting money away ahead of time helps keep the tax rate even. Mr. Milbrand mentioned that Police Chief Lewis tried to make that point for his cruiser purchases (at town meeting).

Backhoe: Mr. Bucklin stated that the backhoe is running fine. Mr. Campbell stated that the committee had first scheduled this piece by working hours and found that this did not work. It is now on a replacement schedule of 10 years.

Grader: Mr. Bucklin would prefer to get more money to pave all the streets/roads than to spend it on replacing the grader. If all roads were paved, he would only need a small excavator and a trailer to move it. This would be a cost savings in the long run. The trailer could be a reasonably used one.

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Vacuum Truck: This is slated to be replaced in 2016 (it is a 1988). Mr. Bucklin felt that, as long as he can do mini repairs, it is okay. Mr. Campbell asked about revenue from this truck and Mr. Bucklin stated that we get \$76.00 an hour to rent it out and it was rented for 40 hours this past year. The money goes into the general fund as people think of holding it within the department makes it a “slush fund” even though it cannot be spent without authorized use. Park & Go and Newfound Meadows have rented it and J. P. Morrison swapped its use for work he did for us this past year.

Mr. Campbell stated that he would like Mr. Bucklin to give us updates on all of his equipment and Mr. Bucklin agreed. He added that he would need to be within a year or two of purchase in order to know if he can stretch a piece out some. A discussion followed as to emergency funds.

Road Paving: Mr. Bucklin stated that the asked for amount of \$320,000 for 2012 has been decreased to \$170,000. He intends to do Jenness Hill, Benz Road, and some in the Green Street area. Mr. Campbell asked about sidewalk repair and Mr. Bucklin stated that this was cut after town meeting.

Transfer Station: Mr. Bucklin is going to try to do some site work in-house. When they finally can move things, they must be done in the same year. Mr. Milbrand stated that the Selectmen are discussing if they can apply the money we get from Hebron to this. Mr. Campbell stated that we would still need a warrant for \$300,000. Mr. Milbrand stated that they are looking to fund next year and in 2015. Mr. Hill asked the cost to do the drainage. Mr. Bucklin stated that they still have some funds left and could do some of this. The plan will have the brush pile down back and all else will be on the upper level. The brush pile is to be burned until such time as this is allowed. If that id no longer allowed, we would need a tub grinder which is better than a chipper. Mr. Hill asked if the brush pile would have limited hours and Mr. Bucklin answered that it would and perhaps they would open this on Saturdays.

As to the **Sand and Salt Sheds**, Mr. Campbell explained that they are a public liability right now. Mr. Bucklin went in with the State to lump delivery but it did not lower the cost. He does better on his own. We need the sheds to protect from rain and snow and to keep the salt from contaminating the area. Last year, Mr. Bucklin got the salt from International Salt and the sand from John Morrison on River Road. If the sand gets wet, it ices up.

Mr. Hill asked if the two compactors are separate. Mr. Bucklin stated that they are. The only need is wiring the new shed to the compactors. He added that one compactor is over 20 years old and we may need to consider replacing it. He has the compactors serviced every year.

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Transfer Station continued:

Mr. Hill asked about the access to the burn pile. Mr. Bucklin stated that he will have to cut it in and bring gravel to stabilize the hill. Mr. Favorite asked about the Single Stream Recycling program. Mr. Bucklin explained that Concord is saying that they will not support a recycling facility. Mr. Campbell asked if we get money back from recycling. Mr. Bucklin stated that we do not get anything now but the regular trash costs us \$66.10 a ton so every bit that we recycle saves with that. If the new facility gets built, we will get some money back then. A discussion followed as to the need of folding the cardboard and taking the tops off from bottles. It was explained that the Single Stream machine takes in everything and sorts it out. Cardboard can jam it and caps of bottles go to a different bin than the bottles.

Mr. Favorite asked about repairs to culverts and bridges. Mr. Bucklin answered that he has nothing beyond normal maintenance. He added that bacteria eats the steel of culverts and salt gets to the tops of aluminum ones. Plastic is the way to go now (High Density Polyurethane).

At this time, the committee was shown around the upper yard. We watched an empty compactor being brought in to place and then looked at the sand and salt sheds which are in very poor shape. It seems that the sand shed is being held up by the sand. The old uprights are old trees which are deteriorating. The committee also looked at the work that has been done to level off the upper section and at the plow blades and the cracks that have started. Mr. Bucklin mentioned that one problem that they are having is determining commercial vehicles when someone comes in with their own pick-up truck or a trailer even though a sign on the truck looks like it may be commercial. He welcomes any suggestion to resolve this as he feels that it is unfair to the taxpayer who pays for the hauling of this.

The tour ended at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Laferriere, recording secretary