

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM MINUTES
May 18, 2012

APPROVED as amended & clarified
6/19/12 jrl _____

AGENDA: POLICE DEPARTMENT TOUR

ATTENDING: Murray Campbell (Chairman), John Bianchi, Don
Milbrand, Dan Paradis

ABSENT: Steve Favorite, David Hill (away), Joe Lukeman (away)

OTHER: Michael Lewis (Police Chief)

The meeting was held at 8:00 a.m. in the lower meeting room. Chief Lewis explained that the front door is locked as their receptionist is on vacation.

CRUISERS:

Chief Lewis stated that they have now received the new cruiser, a Ford, and it is part of the fleet. Still has lettering to be done. We purchase a cruiser every year. He would like to increase this to 6 cruisers when the SUV comes up and keep the SUV until it dies rather than to trade it in as we do not get that much. From April 15th until the first Friday in November we have detail work; Asplundh ties up 2 cruisers every summer. The trade-in is about \$1400.00 and it costs \$700.00 to remove the equipment and place it on the new vehicle. We make money on the detail work (\$8,000 + last year). The Chief feels that we might get more years on each vehicle if we have more cars. They also have a problem with the transporting of drugs to and from the lab as they cannot do this legally with personal cars. The new cruiser arrives about May 1st. He would like to keep the old cruiser for details through September and then put it up for bid or work out a plan to trade it in later with Grappone.

Mr. Campbell mentioned that we have been told previously that one hour of idling equates to 30 miles and Chief Lewis explained that the cruisers must idle in order to run the lights (such as for details). This summer, he will try to use the motorcycle, which is leased from Federal. They paid 50% and we paid 50% from details. The only concern with using the motorcycle is if it tips over.

Chief Lewis stated that he has applied for 4 Humvees, free from military surplus on a NH Highway Safety grant. He is hoping to get 2 (1 pick-up style to be used for the Forestry truck and one for 4-door). Mr. Paradis asked what our cost would be and the Chief answered that the cost would be standard registration and inspection. He feels that it would be foolish for towns not to take advantage of

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grants. Humvees are safer to use for drug raids and the like. A pickup could be used to store and carry police cones, etc. and be used for parades. Keeping the SUV could be used for search warrants. 5,000 to 6,000 miles on these saves the paid-for equipment.

Mr. Bianchi mentioned that he uses his personal truck to take pictures for the Fire Dept. and brings back some of the equipment but the liability for doing so would be great is something falls out.

Mr. Paradis stated that he has a concern as to replacement costs of the new vehicles. The Chief stated that the Forestry truck has not been replaced for 40 years. Once the motorcycle is no longer functioning economically, the Chief does not intend on replacing it, he stated. He went on to say that their rifles are surplus from Viet Nam and they come and inspect what we still have. He only replaces things when the cost to keep them becomes more than they are worth. A Humvee with a battering ram would not be needed so he has not asked for one of those.

Mr. Campbell asked if Asplundh comes around every year. The Chief stated that they usually trim every 5 years but sometimes they do not cover all roads in the same year. He added that the reason he asks that \$1.00 be placed in the budget for details is that it would be merely a guess to do otherwise. Mr. Campbell asked what they receive for details and was told that after all costs are paid, it amounts to \$16.00 per hour. They also do all the basketball games for the High School.

Mr. Campbell asked about mutual aid. The Chief answered that there is mutual aid with 12 towns (some are Tilton, Franklin, Plymouth, Ashland, and Meredith. We get immediate help except for Alexandria and, after today, Hill. We have only been called 5 times in the last few years. New Hampton and Bridgewater never call for our help. We ask fairly regularly from Plymouth and Ashland.

Mr. Campbell asked if the Downtown project will be similar to Asplundh. The Chief said that it is; it will be the same rate for every detail. Old Home day, parades, and the Marathon are covered in the budget with no charge. When they direct traffic, the cars are only used to get back and forth. In 2012, their cost was \$150,000 (35 cents on the tax rate). The Chief would like to put \$1.00 in the revenue line and place the detail funds into a revolving fund to be used as needed for replacement costs. He understands that the feeling is that this is a slush fund for the Selectmen but the Selectmen can do whatever they want with the whole budget.

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Mr. Campbell stated that when cruisers were on warrants and got turned down, we had added repair costs. We came up with a 5 year life/150,000 miles. We would like to make money available and let the Chief buy whenever a cruiser is needed. The Selectmen would still need to approve any purchase.

Chief Lewis stated that the fleet that we have now is not up to the standard for police. The standard for us is 7.5 police cruisers, replaced at 100,000 miles which was set after a vehicle traffic study. We have 5 cruisers and replace at 155,000 miles. He would prefer a revolving fund. Actual replacement is about 63 month's service for the old cruiser. Maintenance is about \$4,000-\$5,000 (we have replaced head gaskets, exhaust manifold, heating and air conditioning. Chief Lewis added that age does not matter but usage does. He reminded the committee that he would like to keep the old ones instead of trading and use them until they are no longer working. Mr. Bianchi felt that there would be a storage problem for all the vehicles then.

Mr. Campbell asked what cruisers we have now and the mileage of each. The Chief answered that we have a 2006 Crown Vic with 145,000 miles, a 2008 Crown Vic with 91,000 miles, a 2010 SUV with 49,000 miles, a 2011 with 65,000 miles and the new 2012 with about 1,000 miles. Mr. Campbell then asked how many towns lease vehicles and was told very few.

Mr. Campbell stated that he knows that some do and they are turned over every two years. The Chief stated that a lease is \$30,000 which is near the same as buying. He added that he is okay with the system we have now but would like to get to the point of less than 155,000 miles. The critical time seems to be from 134,000 – 155,000 for repairs.

Mr. Campbell asked if they keep the SUV and buy a cruiser, will they still ask again for an SUV. The Chief answered that he may not as cruisers are all-wheel drive now. The Crown Vic is no longer made. The SUV costs are about the same. They come as an SUV or a Sedan body but the rest is the same.

Mr. Campbell asked the Chief to update his CIP requests. The Chief stated that the Selectmen are discussing leasing an area for the town office. The Police Dept. was #1 on the Space Needs list 16 years ago. He is fine with the Police staying in this building. In 2007, we paid to redo 4 walls upstairs for \$5,000. We need a Sally port, legal juvenile cells and an up-to-date evidence area. Mr. Campbell asked why he does not place this on a CIP request form. Chief Lewis stated that they were asked to hold off for the Library. Mr. Campbell felt that we need to see this before the committee and get the plan out there. The Chief felt that this building could be satisfactory for them at a cost of \$225,000 to \$300,000 and be good for 30 years. Even if they hold off moving the office, they could still do this

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and get it paid off. Mr. Campbell felt that the problem of leasing from private owners would be if they decide to close. There is no plan set up.

The Chief said that he has 5 plans but no-one says yes. It would be better than spending 2.5 million.. He added that \$100,000 would go a long way to fix the Fire Dept. need and would be much better than the \$500. maintenance that we allow. How do we expect to get a new public service building when we don't even replace windows in our buildings that are over 40 years old.

Mr. Campbell asked about trying a building maintenance fund and Mr. Milbrand stated that they tried and it got cut twice. Mr. Bianchi feels that the public concentrate on new equipment but not the buildings. Mr. Campbell mentioned that the Planning Board is discussing adding town facilities to the Master Plan as support in this area. The Chief feels that the Old Town Hall, the Old Fire Station, and the Police and Town Offices are the critical ones. We are now doing the addition to the Library. He has no idea why we lease the Old Fire Station to the Historic Society for \$1.00 a year when we need space. Something definitely needs to be done with the Old Town Hall.

The Chief went on to say that there is not enough parking here and we have a plan to build back here. Why do we not give Mr. Bucklin the job to remove the dirt back there so as to add parking and give him the dirt that he needs for the transfer station project. We own the land, the Highway Dept. has the equipment and the ability. We could do the parking extension and the Sally port and Mr. Bucklin could use the fill removed.

Mr. Campbell asked if Bristol is dealing with much in the way of narcotics. Chief Lewis answered that this problem has become horrific. There is an epidemic in this area. Nashua has 45 police and 35 detectives. Bristol has 1 detective for 20 hours a week, 1 supervisor and 1 patrolman per shift. At 4:00 p.m., we have no back-up as Bristol is the only force functioning. Littleton is in the same boat. Besides the narcotics, we are seeing heinous crimes, and the school system has lots of cases. Facebook, sexual texting, etc. is all being done on Bristol soil so becomes our problem. One case requires about 16 hours. We have lots of domestic violence, drugs, robberies and trafficking at the moment.

Mr. Campbell asked if the Chief is disappointed with CIP support at town meeting. The Chief answered that they find that, in general, the people like them but don't come for the critical points when they are voted on. He asked, last night, for \$20,000 for extra hours for back-up and investigations. He has trouble understanding the thinking of running a full-time Fire Department, Police Department, Highway, Water and Sewer, and the Town Offices on 5.3 million

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dollars. Mr. Campbell felt that it is better to have the Dept. Heads talk at town meeting. However, maybe it would help to have more back-up by the CIP committee. The Chief stated that we always have the naysayers but need more bodies there to vote. He was upset with placing our support behind the library and then having so many leave after that vote and not stay and support the other town departments.

The Chief said if they put in 50 requests to CIP, they should at least receive one, he felt. Mr. Campbell stated that the CIP committee is a powerless group; they are only advisory. The first couple of years, they didn't have any luck at all but have been gaining some the past couple of years.

The Chief was thanked for meeting with the committee.

Mr. Campbell asked the committee to look at Mr. Hill's suggestion with all priority 1 and priority 2 requests. Mr. Hill added up the total (in his example) and divided it by 4 years. Exclude the police department, road paving, and transfer station. We will then try to get the Selectmen and Budget Committee to go along with the plan. Mr. Campbell is willing to go to the Budget Committee and suggest that they look at this idea. Mr. Milbrand will explain it to the other Selectmen and will go to the Budget Committee with Mr. Campbell to act as back-up. It was determined to wait on updating the spreadsheet for now until we have better plans set up. Mr. Milbrand stated that he sent Mr. Paradis the history yesterday.

Mr. Campbell asked how he can get the notice of meetings as he does not have cable TV. Mr. Milbrand explained that it is all on the web site. Mr. Campbell then stated that he has to work next Friday so he will postpone the Library tour to a later date. He shall let us know the new date.

Mr. Bianchi asked why we do not have a Sally port warrant every year. Mr. Milbrand explained that we kept changing the plan drastically each year for several years. The town does not want to vote in anything that is over a million dollars it seems. Mr. Milbrand added that they are going to have an oversight committee for the Library addition. He and Joe Denning will be on it.

A discussion followed in which members feel that there should be a limit of 3 minutes for people to speak at town meeting. They felt that too much discussion was allowed from people who do not know what is needed. Also discussed is the importance of a CIP so as to even out the cost of taxes each year for these high dollar items.

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With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted;
Jan Laferriere, recording secretary