CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM (CIP)
FIRE DEPARTMENT TOUR
April 23, 2013, 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.

ATTENDING: Murray Campbell, Steve Favorite, John Bianchi, Joe Lukeman, Dan Paradis, Chief Steve Yannuzzi, and Chris Dolloff.

When asked, Chief Yannuzzi stated that he has 7 full time employees and 26/27 on call. Of these, 4 are female.

Mr. Campbell asked what the highest priority is for the Fire Department and the Chief answered that it is Engine 4. He has a committee now searching potential costs for a replacement. They started today and he should have some good information by next month.

Mr. Campbell gave the Chief a couple of news articles on other Fire Departments. The Chief stated that he addresses their existing equipment and how we use it. Engine 4 is the tanker truck. The issue is that the maintenance cost will soon outweigh the truck replacement. He is not looking for a "Cadillac" nor is he looking at a "Chevy". He has the committee look at the middle of the road. They are also to look at costs to repair as well as what will fit in our Station. Mr. Paradis asked if there is improvement in design now. Chief Yannuzzi answered that there is along with safety features. Mr. Campbell added that there are a lot of possible changes in cost since we began 4 or 5 years ago for this truck. The CIP has had to re-do this particular vehicle on their plan since 2009. We are now betting on borrowed time. The Chief agreed.

Chief Yannuzzi stated that, last year, they sent Engine 4 to Randy's in Hill for inspection and an oil change. It made it back as far as Braley's when it broke down. Mr. Campbell asked if the pump is in working order. The Chief answered that they are having some electrical problems at this time. Mr. Favorite asked how long it takes to get an order and Mr. Dolloff answered that it take 300 to 365 days. Mr. Favorite felt that we would need to bond it at this time. Chief Yannuzzi stated that we do not want to do like we did on the old Police car that we inherited: it was purchased new for $13,000 and the Fire Dept. spent $30,000 to keep it running.

Mr. Campbell asked what the Fire Dept. burden would be if Ragged Mountain expands as they are looking to. The Chief stated that it will definitely be more. He feels that Danbury should speak to the owners for some compensation as it will probably double if Ragged takes off. Bristol has zero Fire protection unless they are called in to help. We get paid for the ambulance runs.

When asked about any Capital Reserve, the Chief stated that they have no funds left. Mr. Bianchi felt that, what would be smart would be to be allowed to keep some of the revenue that they bring in could be held towards replacements. Chief Yannuzzi stated that Engine 4 needs replacing now and we won't take delivery until next year. He feels it should be a bond or a loan. Mr. Dolloff stated that previously they ordered a vehicle in 2008 to get in 2009 with the first payment due in 2009. They paid the entire amount up front. This allowed for the money to gain a little interest which we got back along with the delivery.

When asked what happens if the truck fails, the chief stated that we call in the closest mutual aid. Mr. Campbell stated that it is now needed for 2014 on the CIP. The Chief stated that this truck has a 30 year life and Mr. Campbell stated that other Fire Departments hav4e told him that they shouldn't be kept beyond 20 years. This one is 24 years old.

Mr. Lukeman suggested that, when the committee does their analysis that they include the reason for not getting another cheaper vehicle and get this out to the general public. Chief Yannuzzi stated that the committee is charge with looking at new, refurbished, and all other options. Mr. Paradis asked if any Departments lease their trucks and the Chief answered none that he knows of. He feels that it is an analogy: having a fire truck that is dependable even if we don't use it every day compared to folks who pay car insurance but never have an accident. Mr. Dolloff stated that Engine 4 needs replacing in 2013 and, so far, he has received a rough figure of $450,000. Mr. Campbell stated that the CIP will meet again with the Chief in July and will have a better feel by then.

Mr. Campbell then asked if the pavement has been sealed. Chief Yannuzzi stated that Mark Bucklin told him that it would be a good idea. Mr. Lukeman said that he has been told that you should wait 4 years before sealing. The Chief felt that they should probably fill the cracks at least.

The Chief stated that he would like to replace a set of the hydraulic tools sooner than 2017. Mr. Campbell stated that we are behind now in our CIP and there are no Capital Reserve accounts. The Chief stated that he needs Engine 4 first as he expects it to die any day. He added that grant money is shrinking now also. He would like to be able to take a percentage of their revenues to replace their equipment.

Mr. Campbell asked about the back wall cracks and was told that they are not any bigger. They all looked at the gap in the floor. It was said that the foundation is on sand and pilings and they were not sure of footing though they suspect some due to the weight of the cement blocks. Mr. Paradis stated that the Planning Board is looking to write up a chapter for the Master Plan for the Town Buildings. Chief Yannuzzi stated that Mr. Capone is looking at all the buildings to try to determine how to prioritize. Mr. Campbell mentioned that we tried to get a building repairs fund going in which $20,000 was put in. Each year, whatever was spent would be replaced. This way, we might keep up to at least the smaller upkeep. It was noted that the budget posted in the town report shows $25,000 for Town Building Maintenance. Mr. Campbell asked about the generator for the town office. Chief Yannuzzi stated that the Budget Committee did not back that.

The committee then took a tour of the building. They adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Laferriere, recording secretary