

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM (CIP)
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TOUR
April 30, 2013, 9:00 – 11:00 am

ATTENDING: Murray Campbell (Chairman), Steve Favorite (Vice Chairman), Betsy Schneider (Selectman), John Bianchi, Joe Lukeman, Dan Paradis, Mark Bucklin (Dept. Superintendent)

Mr. Bucklin stated that the 6-wheel dump trucks are on a 15 year scheduled which has been spread out. In 1998, the Selectmen took the purchase completely off. Mr. Campbell explained that we have 3 of these vehicles. Mr. Bucklin added that the two newest ones go out as primary. These stay that way for 10 years and then become back-up. The need for back-up is that, if one vehicle breaks down, two people are sitting idle. Mr. Campbell stated that the Selectmen asked that we buy an ambulance in 2012 and hold the truck to 2013. We got the ambulance but not the truck. The 2001 truck is due to replace in 2016. The 2008 is okay. Mr. Bucklin mentioned that the 2001 truck is burning oil; it uses 3 quarts in one snowstorm (averaging 18 miles for 2 or 3 times, about 12 to 14 hours). The dump body is beginning to rust and starts hard. The 1998 truck has a bad frame.

Ms. Schneider asked about repair versus new. Mr. Bucklin answered that, with repair, you still have an old truck. He mentioned that we put \$2300 worth of repair into the 2009 F-550. He trades in the truck when he purchases a new one.

A discussion was held on how to change policy so that revenues to a Department are placed in Capital Reserve accounts to offset the cost of replacing the vehicles. Mr. Campbell stated that we do not want to do as what happened with the backhoe a few years ago: we spent \$15,750 to repair it and it quit 3 months later. It was only worth \$12,000. We had to bond 3 vehicles in one year due to not following a plan. Mr. Lukeman also mentioned that, sometimes a used vehicle comes along and, unless we have money available, we lose out. Ms. Schneider asked about renting and Mr. Bucklin stated that, if they rent, they would not have the vehicle to use whenever they want to. The 6-wheel is designated to be a Lease/Purchase for 2 years.

Mr. Campbell brought up the F-550's next. This pushes in to when a 1-ton is designated to be purchased. The 1008 and 1009 were purchased with 2 years in between. Mr. Bucklin stated that the pick-up does the downtown square with a part-time person who does snowstorms. Mr. Campbell asked about the part-time person and Mr. Bucklin explained that it is shared labor with the Water/Sewer Dept. (2/3rds for Water/Sewer and 1/3 for Highway).

Mr. Bucklin stated that the backhoe is in good shape. Mr. Campbell asked its' hours of operation and Mr. Bucklin answered that it works every day. Mr. Campbell added that its' life is somewhere around 9,000 hours. He then mentioned that we still have the Grader. Mr. Bucklin said that it is 27 years old (expected life span of 30 years). He is having trouble with it shutting down on its own and told of one experience where it did so while he was running it and he had to use all of his strength on the brake

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until his men could come and chalk the tires. He would suggest that we pave all roads instead of purchasing another grader as it would be cheaper. It's about \$250,000 for a grader.

Mr. Campbell stated that the vacuum truck is in the \$270,000 range but about \$120,000 used if one is found. Mr. Bucklin stated that its hoses have European threads so his crew makes them. Mr. Bianchi mentioned that, before the vacuum truck, the crew had to hand sweep. Mr. Bucklin thought that he might be able to extend this purchase.

Mr. Campbell asked about the Excavator and if Mr. Bucklin expected to push that out. Mr. Bucklin answered that it would be nice to have. They make them on rubber tracks now instead of rubber tires.

The sidewalk tractor was then spoken of. Mr. Bucklin stated that, 2 years ago he listed the problems and was told to treat this delicately so as to keep it going. We need a heavier unit. Mr. Bianchi expressed that it would help if we had better sidewalks, as well. Mr. Campbell stated that we need something to mow grass as well. Mr. Bucklin stated that a heavy-duty one would have all the side attachments. They had one scare with the transmission this winter. A falling piece hit it but they were able to repair it themselves. Mr. Campbell stated that we saved money with it but only got 5 years out of it. He mentioned that this is only a driveway type machine. Mr. Bucklin added that, with the change of the Square, plowing will be different. He would like this replaced next year. Mr. Campbell stated that the CIP will have to go with what is most important.

Mr. Campbell then asked about the Transfer Station changes and he showed Ms. Schneider a copy of the plan. Mr. Bucklin is waiting quotes from Bestway, etc. It will not be the same type of co-op that we have now. Single Stream in Concord wants out. There are other companies that are looking to do this. We pay for the trucking of the materials. Mr. Bucklin would like to see more re4cyclables. Mr. Campbell stated that what we have is a good deal. When he lived in N.J., he had to pay \$80 a month, year round compared to the \$5 a year that we pay here. Mr. Bucklin mentioned that he needs a better way to handle contractors, also. We charge for demolition, have a burn pile down below and the rest will be up here. Some come in with signs on their doors but say they are only bringing in their personal stuff. The town has to pay for the hauling. He suggested that, maybe, bags marked "Town of Bristol" for \$1.25 be sold to collect the non-recyclables and recyclables would be free so as to encourage recycling but that did not go. Mr. Favorite said that some would just dump on the side of the road.

The next discussion was on paving. Mr. Campbell presented Mr. Bucklin with a couple of articles and Mr. Bucklin stated that micro-surf works with good shape roads and seals. He does not know much about rubber chip. Mr. Bucklin did use straight chip on a portion of Smith River Rd. that has held up. Mr. Campbell asked, annually, how necessary is it to use his budget for paving. Mr. Bucklin answered that he needs \$300,000 but it keeps getting taken. Ms. Schneider suggested that it be a warrant article

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and then it couldn't be taken for anything but paving. Mr. Bucklin stated that, last year, he was held off until fall to use some of this and the roads he did at that time did not take well.

Mr. Campbell explained that sidewalks have been addressed some with a Safe Routes to School grant. We hope to get a second grant to continue on. There is to be one more 100% grant and we shall apply again. After that, it will no longer be 100%. The walk to Shop 'n Save is good. Mr. Paradis stated that it stops before you get to Family Dollar or the new Medical Center though.

Mr. Campbell mentioned that we tried to get a building maintenance fund going 2 years ago. The CIP is a group that develops information only. They are going to ask to speak with the Selectmen. Mr. Paradis added that we had talked about a rotating contingency fund so as to eliminate "stealing" from other budgets. Mr. Bianchi stated that it is recommended that 10% of the budget be held for contingency. Mr. Campbell feels that we need to establish a better relationship with the Selectmen and the Budget Committee. We are to start with the Selectmen. Ms. Schneider suggested that we need a couple of Budget Committee members to be there, as well.

At this time, the group toured the outside of the Transfer Station. Mr. Bucklin showed the deterioration of the windows/sills and where someone tried to break in (he has nailed that window shut now). Mr. Bucklin has several pieces of metal that belong to the town but are no longer of use. However, he does not have the authority to get rid of any of it. He pointed out the work that his crew has done in preparation of the Transfer Station changes. The sand shed had to be torn down this year and will be replaced when we do the bigger changes.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Laferriere, recording secretary