

TOWN OF WINCHENDON



Finance Committee

Telephone (978)-297-5419

Approved: / /

Finance Committee Minutes
Finance Committee Meeting/Public Hearing
February 19, 2019
Town Hall 2nd Floor Auditorium

Present: Chairman Thomas J. Kane Jr., Vice Chair Christian Orobello, Dr. Maureen Ward,
Charles C. Corts, Douglas Delay, Charles (CJ) Husselbee
Brianna Roberts, Recording Secretary

Absent: Amy Salter

Guests: Keith Hickey, Town Manager
Michael Barbaro & Mary-Jo Galat, Capital Improvement Planning Committee

Materials: Agenda, February 19th 2019
Request Form For Transfer From The Reserve Fund
Recommended Capital Improvement Plan Fiscal Year 2020-2025
Year To Date Reports Ending 2/7/19

Call to Order: 6:30PM- Chairman Kane called the meeting to order.
Pledge of Allegiance

Announcements: None

Approval of Minutes: 1/8/19

Mr. Husselbee motioned to approve and Dr. Ward seconded the motion. Mr. Delay & Mr. Orobello abstained. Mr. Kane voted aye.

Orobello (A) Ward (Y) Corts (Y) Delay (A) Husselbee (Y) Kane (Y) 4-0-2 Abstain

Request for Snow and Ice Reserve Funds:

Mr. Hickey asked the board to pass over the request due to budget concerns. He did not feel comfortable transferring \$78,000 from the \$93,000 in the snow and ice reserve fund to tear down a portion of the building on Lincoln Ave. Extension. He would prefer to wait until later in the year to ensure that concerns with potential budget overages in some departments are resolved. Unfortunately there are no state or federal grants that this

building would qualify for. This has become a potentially hazardous situation as the building is nearly collapsed and is leaning towards the road. The town does not own the buildings, the DEP & EPA are now involved, and the property will have a lien placed against it. The town went to court and was granted permission to address the safety concerns. The \$78,000 is mainly for the disposal of the asbestos material that is inside the walls.

FY2020 CIP Recommendations:

Mr. Barbaro stated the total request from each department totaled \$11,011,553. Robinson Broadhurst requests were submitted and in the meantime the Capital Planning Committee is creating a 2-year plan that includes requests and funding solutions.

\$60,000 was budgeted to replace the cemetery dump truck. It is a main piece of equipment and is fully rotted through beyond the point of repair.

\$90K is budgeted for the replacement of police cruisers. \$135K is being funded through the 9-1-1 regional call center. The old cruisers will be recycled and given to the school resource officer.

The school department requested \$75,000 to hire an engineer to perform a structural survey on the fieldstone walls between Memorial Elementary and Murdock High School. An engineer would be able to thoroughly assess the structure and give a comprehensive plan and price for repairing or rebuilding.

Dr. Ward questioned how the school department was able to determine the price of \$75,000 for an engineered study. Mr. Barbaro stated Jim Murphy had spoke to an engineer and determined an estimated price. Dr. Ward asked why the school department chose to ask for an engineered study versus putting it out to bid and have a construction company give a more accurate price. Mr. Hickey stated the condition of the wall is still unknown whether it needs to be repaired or replaced, and the engineered study would better determine the plan moving forward for construction.

Each department sent in Robinson Broadhurst requests and the CIP has outlined the projects that will be endorsed once they are funded. The highway garage roof replacement is the first project on the list and will cost \$205,000. The highway department was built in the 60's, the roof has been patched and coated since but it is in need of a replacement now.

Dr. Ward asked about the septic system due to the age. Mr. Barbaro stated the septic system is pumped regularly and is in working condition at the moment.

Mr. Orobello asked how long the use of the building would be extended by replacing the roof. Mr. Barbaro stated the new roof would add about 20 years to the building and ideally in the future will be replaced with a more efficient and updated building. The cost of rebuilding will be around \$4-5 million dollars.

The fire department has requested an all-terrain vehicle that would be customized and set up for rescue with the ability to carry a stretcher. This would allow easier and faster access to trails around town.

The police cruisers laptops are outdated and at the end of their lifespan. They have requested the replacement of new mobile data terminals.

A small grant is left to replace the body in one of the dump trucks; it is 9 years old and no longer able to repair.

These requests do not increase the taxes or town budget; they are all grant-funded if approved.

Water & Sewer Funds:

As the plant ages it requires replacing of certain parts, pumps, etc. The water plant capital replacement program funds these repairs.

The emergency response truck needs to be replaced as the body is completely rotted out. The plan is to lease a new truck at \$21,000 a year and buy it out at the end of the lease.

During and after heavy rainstorms, the wastewater treatment plant is inundated with excessive amounts of water. Most of this is due to cracks in the piping and sump pumps draining basement water. The town would like to spend \$80,000 to hire a professional to put cameras in the water lines and see where the problem areas exist.

The state will be funding and completing the central street water main replacement. The pipes are 100 years old, and while the street is torn up it would make sense to replace the water and sewer lines. Over \$3,000,000 is being funded by the state; it would cost \$500,000 for the water lines and \$500,000 for the sewer lines.

Dr. Ward asked who is responsible for the water lines connecting to businesses and homes. Mr. Hickey stated the business & property owners are responsible for the lines from the street to the building. Mr. Orobello asked if a business or homeowner wanted to replace their lines, who would be responsible? Mr. Hickey stated the owners are responsible.

Mr. Orobello questioned the water rate and why it is currently \$5.27, \$5.17 in 2020, and then increases to \$5.76 in 2021. He recommended spreading out the large gap and increasing it over time. Mr. Hickey stated the current water rate is \$5.27; the cost to fund the 2020 budget is \$5.17. Ideally the water rate would be dropped by the 10 cents to balance the budget but it was not recommended due to the significant capital projects being funded. The fiscal 2021 rate of \$5.76 includes the retirement of the water bond for the water plant and increase the debt service to fund the \$3,000,000 water line.

The CIP will be revisiting this year with a more comprehensive layout and plan to move forward with the requested projects.

The credits from the solar projects will be applied to the next electric bill in February or March.

YTD Reports: Ending on 2/7/19

No Comments/Questions

Town Manager & Board of Selectmen meeting: March 11th 6:30

Monty Tech Superintendent & Business Manager meeting: March 14th at 6:30

School Committee presentation of the budget: March 21st at 6:30

The board will propose a meeting at the high school on March 21st at 5:00

Member Comments: None

Public Comments: None

Dr. Ward motioned to adjourn and Mr. Husselbee seconded the motion. The board unanimously voted aye to adjourn the meeting.

Orobello (Y) Ward (Y) Corts (Y) Delay (Y) Husselbee (Y) Kane (Y) 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:36PM

Respectfully submitted:

Brianna Roberts, Finance Committee Recording Secretary