

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Meeting

January 3, 2024

Approved Minutes

Present: Gary Scholl, Gail Cromwell, Tim Fiske, Ivy Bibler, Andy Paul, Kent Perry (for Highway Dept)

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m.

1. Review CIP plan spreadsheet

Gary Scholl distributed an updated CIP plan spreadsheet and reviewed changes since the December meeting. Key changes include:

- **Highway Department:** The chipper was removed, as Road Agent Kent Perry indicated that he negotiated the purchase of a second-hand chipper from Balcom Bros. in Milford for \$25,000. There was discussion of whether there is enough in the Highway Equipment trust fund to cover the cost, since the purchase of a new 6-wheel dump truck in 2023, estimated at \$175,000 and funded at that level through a trust fund appropriation, actually cost \$190,000. The Committee updated the replacement schedule, removing the 2006 International Dump Truck and adding the 2023 International that replaced it. Replacement of the Town Lawn Mower was moved out another year to 2025, as Perry said it is still in good order.
- **Bridge Repair:** Repair/replacement of the East Road Bridge was added to the plan in 2027. The state of NH has indicated that this bridge should be replaced within the next 5 years. The Committee discussed two options for completing the work: having the work performed by the state, which would qualify for state bridge aid (with the Town's portion being 20%), or having the Town hire its own contractor to do the work and footing the entire cost. Perry received a ballpark estimate of \$325,000 from Hanson Construction using an innovative precast bridge technology which he said can be achieved at lower cost and more rapidly than a traditional built onsite bridge by state engineers. The Committee asked Perry to see if the state can provide a ballpark estimate if they do the work, enabling a comparison of Hanson's cost with the 20% Town portion of a state project. The figure of \$325,00 was added to the CIP plan pending this additional information.

In a related discussion, the Committee discussed prioritizing the East Road Bridge project over another bridge due for replacement on Powers Road. Perry noted that the Town would have to vote to close the Powers Road bridge and the Committee agreed to recommend this as a warrant article in March.

- **Paving Projects:** Scholl expressed concern about the condition of Hadley Highway which had been added to the paving plan for 2024. Tim Fiske opined that its repair would likely cost far more than the \$83,600 quoted recently by a contractor to do it correctly. After some discussion, it was decided to remove Hadley Highway from the plan, reverting to a total proposed appropriation of \$114,347 for Boutwell Hill, Gambol Brook, Hedman Lane, and Glen Farm. Fiske recommended that Perry work on drainage on the section of Hadley Highway between Mansfield Road and Boutwell Hill.
- **Library Carpet:** The Committee received from the Library Trustees quotes for new carpeting ranging from \$7,785 to more than \$10,782. The Committee agreed to recommend a warrant article for \$8,000 to fund the carpet replacement.
- **Police Cruiser:** Per a request from Chief McTague, the figure of \$15,600 for Temple's portion for the replacement of the 2015 Ford Explorer cruiser will be updated to \$16,600.
- **Tennis Courts:** The Committee discussed the \$4,100 planned for 2025 to resurface the Town tennis courts. Some members expressed concern that this might not be adequate funding, yet the Committee has not received a quote from the Recreation Commission. It was decided to keep this item unchanged pending additional cost information.
- **Photocopier:** As in recent years, the replacement of the photocopier in the Town Office was pushed out another year to 2025, as it is still operational.

2. CIP funding strategy

Scholl reviewed the updated CIP funding target of \$290,000 per year, with appropriate contributions to trust funds to achieve the goal of leveling tax impact from year to year. Fiske brought up the point that over a 10-year period, the Town will spend \$1.4 million on highway equipment and suggested it would make sense to put aside a significant amount of money each year to fund these future purchases. A spirited discussion about funding strategies ensued, with Scholl explaining how the existing strategy achieves the desired leveling, while providing a degree of flexibility. The Committee will likely revisit this question in the future.

3. CIP warrant articles

Gail Cromwell presented draft language for a proposed warrant article to create a new Town Equipment Maintenance and Repair Expendable Trust to combine and replace two separate existing trusts for the Highway Dept and Fire Dept.

Other proposed warrant articles to be drafted include:

- Adding \$100,000 to the Bridge Fund in anticipation of the East Road project scheduled for 2027. Current balance in that fund is \$58,000.
- Asking the Town to close the Powers Road Bridge.
- \$8,000 for Library carpeting.
- Adding \$50,000 to the Highway Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.
- Funding for the planned 2024 paving projects at an estimated cost of \$114,347.

4. Other business

Gary Scholl informed the group that he plans to step down from the CIP Committee at the completion of his term this year. Committee members expressed their appreciation for Scholl's leadership, commitment, and contributions that have resulted in significant benefit to Temple's taxpayers.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the December 13, 2023 meeting were accepted with one minor edit (spelling of Gambol Brook).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 15 at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Andy Paul