

**Joint Capital Planning Committee**  
**Thursday, March 1, 2018, 8:30 am**  
**Town Room, Town Hall**

Attendance: Tamson Ely, Phoebe Hazzard, Connie Kruger (Chair), Alex Lefebvre, Eric Nakajima, Marylou Theilman. Absent: Bernie Kubiak, Andy Steinberg

Staff and Fire & EMS Representatives: AFD Chief Tim Nelson; Assistant Chiefs Lindsay Stromgren and Jeff Olmstead; Paul Bockelman, Town Manager; Anthony Delaney, Procurement Officer; Claire McGinnis, Staff Liaison

Citizen Petitioners: William Kaizen and Toni Cunningham

Meeting was called to order at 8:35 am.

Bockelman announced that McGinnis will be leaving Amherst on March 16 to become the Finance Director for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. He praised the good work she has done for the Town and said she would be greatly missed.

Fire/EMS:

Nelson, Stromgren and Olmstead reviewed and prioritized the FY19 capital requests for the Fire Department. (See Departmental Capital Request Summary FY 19-28.)

1. A new ambulance was requested last year and is being requested again this year to replace the 2007 ambulance with currently over 198,000 miles. The vehicle is a very high priority and part of a regular replacement cycle. It will be four-wheel drive, and will include a new VHF and UHF radio, and have Eco-Smart" Green HVAC unit with a solar panel to provide supplemental power to the charging system. Cost will be \$260,000 which will come from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation account. (See AFD Ambulance Replacement Schedule ---Proposed 2017.)
2. Repair to the North Station façade and some plumbing and fixtures also are being requested for the 42 year old building. Cost is \$15,000. (See pictures of façade.)
3. Microwave Communications equipment currently in use is 15 years old and used by both AFD and APD. It plays a critical role in the departments' operation, therefore replacement is requested, as the present currently used equipment is not supported by the manufacturer nor does it supply parts. Currently, parts are scavenged. Depending on what antennas can be reused, the approximate cost is \$55,000.
4. Mobile radios are being requested as part of a three year replacement plan. These radios are installed in vehicles, unlike portable radios carried by firefighters. Over the past few

years when new vehicles are purchased mobile radios are also. Old radios are kept as spares. Cost is \$24,000 to replace five mobile radios.

5. The new portable radios, Motorola APX are Public Safety Grade (P25) and have a Blue Tooth feature which allows firefighters to be heard clearly without having to remove the radio from their turnout coat, as they are connected to the masks of their breathing packs. These portable radios for firefighters will be used on the two front line engines and rescue truck. Old portable radios will be used in ambulances and support vehicles. Cost is \$45,000 for eight portable radios.

For FY20, the Department lists \$1.3 million for a new ladder truck to replace its current 30 year old ladder truck. The Department will seek grant funding. However, there is a lot of competition for grant money for fire trucks.

Also requested for FY20 is \$5 million for first bonds for an AFD Headquarters. FY19 has request of \$550,000 for schematic design and engineering. It is anticipated that requests for the initial funding will be brought to Town Meeting in the Fall of 2018.

Total Fire/EMS Cash Capital Request is \$399,000.

Conservation:

Rescheduled for a future meeting.

Citizen Capital:

The two petitioners who requested engineering work on East Pleasant Street from Olympia Drive to Pine Street were present and explained their petition request. They had spoken with Guilford Mooring and then made their request to the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) but did not see any progress. The request to JCPC explains their concerns. A design sketch also was submitted along with a request for \$50,000, as estimated by Guilford Mooring.

As part of the overall discussion, petition articles from Lucy McMurrer for improvements to Shays Street for \$145,000 for sidewalks and \$2,500 for a crosswalk, and Nicole Usher for Pine-Harris pedestrian safety were included. Neither petitioner was present.

The safety factor on many streets which have gaps in sidewalks was discussed, with the recognition that there are many sidewalks, along with the issue of roads and limited funds. A grant for \$21,000 will be used to study gaps in sidewalks.

Committee members discussed at length the process for the Citizen Petition for Capital. The idea came from the Select Board which was seeking a way to address capital concerns expressed by citizens. TAC is a new committee trying to figure out its role, and in time may be able to resolve these requests. The role of the JCPC also is unclear. Does it refer petitions to the appropriate department? and if not, why have a process? Does petitioning JCPC end run departments and established committee process? Does referral back to departments or TAC suggest preferential treatment? There were many thoughts during the discussion. In the

meantime, the Committee agreed that the petitioners needed some type of response from JCPC and that a capital petition by residents be examined. It was suggested that whatever the process, it should be structured according to what JCPC has capacity to manage and influence. It was agreed that Guilford Mooring would be invited to the 3/8/18 meeting to get his input on the subject.

Review Available Funds:

No update

Minutes:

None

Adjourned:

10:25 am

Recorder:

Marylou Theilman

Documents

Capital Request forms and Summary from AFD/EMS

AFD Capital summary

AFD Ambulance Replacement Schedule

Citizen Capital Request Packet

Photos from AFD