

BAC/CIP Meeting January 18, 2023 Minutes

Present: Gary Scholl, Gail Cromwell, Tim Fiske, Andy Paul, Rob Kenney, Ivy Bibler, Ken Caisse, Bill Ezell, Mike Darnell

Absent: Paul Clifton-Waite

Guest: George Willard

Chairman Scholl called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

The Minutes of the meeting of January 11, 2023, were approved as written

Gary has several updates on budget numbers.

The Police Budget surplus is expected to be \$28,695. After Greenville is audited, that number will be finalized and will be applied to the monthly payments during 2023.

Recycling is a bit lower, \$78,064.

Vivian Wills has advised that the Recreation Committee can stay with a budget of \$2500 and will use funding from the Revolving Fund if they decide to ask for a presentation by a state official.

Andy Paul reported that he had attended the last Library Trustees meeting to ask about their plans for their PDIP Account. They do not think it is appropriate to regard that money as an emergency furnace replacement expense. They feel it should be used for library programming, garden enhancements, and other library activities. Trustee Camilla Lockwood noted that the furnace was installed in 2001 as an oil-fired unit and later converted to propane. The tag on the furnace indicates that it was converted in Sept 2010 by Economy Plumbing and Heating of Keene. Other than the recent gas valve freeze-up the unit has been working reliably.

They also did not wish to use their funds for a fence. They would not present a warrant article for it at this time. Andy said he would check on their plans for Repairs in the budget.

After some discussion it was decided to have a \$20,000 addition to the Fire Department Trust Fund for Repairs. There is approximately \$5000 in the trust now but the department was over their budget line for repairs in 2022 by \$7800. That was paid from the General Fund for 2022 rather than by using the trust fund. Apparently there were two expensive issues, engine coolant and a brake repair.

Tim raised the question of recent information on cancer causing chemicals in the PPE's that we buy each year. Would it be better to hold off with purchases until this equipment was improved? Ken thought they needed the new sets now regardless of the chemicals.

The final proposed budget is \$1,361,110, an increase of 4.9% over 2022.

Turning to CIP items, Ken provided two estimates for replacing the flagpole, one for \$10,911, a second for \$13,213. The difference is exterior vs. Interior halyard. These are installed prices but the Highway dept will have to do digging and removal of the historic grist mill stone at the current base. The town common may be a better location for the grist mill stone.

Ken was asked about the Cascade system that was replaced in 2022 . How was it paid for? It cost approximately \$40,000. The FD received a grant for most of it and the remaining several thousand came from ARPA money. Gail noted that the Cascade system is not in our CIP schedule. Ken said it should be, the current one would last about 10 years. Ivy and Andy both noted that a new pumper would be in the range of \$800,000 and we have nothing on our schedule. It was agreed that we need to have the FD review and update the CIP schedule.

Mike raised the question of why do we maintain two separate trusts for repairs, one for the FD and one for the Highway Dept. Why don't we have just one? The Highway one has about \$24,000 now and we will be bringing the FD one up to about \$25,000 with the new warrant article. Does it make sense to have two when it is unlikely both would be used in a given year. Rob agreed the probability was low. Scholl requested Darnell to propose a draft Warrant Article for the proposed transition.

Paving was the next problem. Gary had spoken with Kent about his plans for 2023. In October Kent gave the CIP committee a plan for \$214,000. Last year we postponed all paving, putting \$89,000 in the Paving trust fund, and the state gave the town \$58,000 which also went into the fund. The current total available is approximately \$188,000. Gary reviewed the \$275,000 that we have been using as the amount that should be reserved by the CIP plan for the future. As it stands now we have \$60,000 in planned additions: \$15,000 for the garage door, \$15,000 for the flagpole replacement, \$20,000 for the FD trust fund, and Bill reminded us the town needs to replace the security systems in all town buildings. He suggested \$10,000 for it, with possible extra expense coming from ARPA. After considerable chaos, it was decided to put \$215,000 in the paving trust, bringing the total of warrant articles to \$275,000.

Tim raised the question of the paving planned by Kent. Kent favors paving but Tim noted that this is very expensive, that sand sealing should be used when possible to preserve the paved surfaces and limit the amount of paving expenses going forward. It was decided to have a discussion of this at a future meeting.

Dates coming up: Budget Hearing Feb 9. Reports are due to Carole for inclusion in the town annual report. Gail and Andy will write the CIP report, Gary the BAC report.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday Feb 2 for the CIP vote on the proposed warrant articles.
It will be CIP meeting but BAC members are welcome.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25.

Respectfully,
Gail Cromwell