

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Meeting
January 24, 2024
Approved Minutes

Present: Gail Cromwell, Gary Scholl, Tim Fiske, Andy Paul, Ken Caisse

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m.

1. Review of warrant article changes

The Committee reviewed some changes to the draft warrant articles in response to feedback by Town Counsel Laura Spector-Morgan of Mitchell Municipal Group, P.A.

Counsel had recommended splitting the article to create a new combined Highway and Fire Department Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Trust Fund into three separate articles: one each to discontinue the existing funds and a third article to create the new one.

Ken Caisse voiced objection to the combined fund, concerned that it could reduce funds available to the Fire Department if the Highway Department has exceptional repair costs. Members of the Committee explained that the combined fund would expand the pool of funds, providing greater flexibility to allocate funds as needed by either department.

Regarding the article to add \$125,000 to the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund, Cromwell asked whether it should state that the \$74,698 in state bridge aid should come from the Reserved Fund Balance. The Committee felt that the wording as it exists was clear enough.

Regarding the proposed article to close the Powers Road Bridge, Cromwell presented revised wording from Town Counsel including the phrase “completely discontinue” and adding that the bridge is over Blood Brook. Cromwell proposed modified wording the follow-on warrant article, in case the closure vote fails at Town Meeting, to wit:

To see if the town will vote to add the bridge on Powers Road to our list of bridges to be repaired. Scheduling, as well as costs and methods for the funding of the required repairs will be determined prior to our next Town Meeting. This article is conditional on the failure of the preceding article to pass.

Caisse voiced opposition to the Power Road bridge closure article, stating that the bridge is used by the Fire Department to access homes in that part of town.

On motion by Cromwell, seconded by Tim Fiske, the revised wording of all warrant articles was approved unanimously.

2. Approval of minutes

The minutes of the January 15 meeting were approved as read.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.