Capital Planning Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Minutes

Members Attending: T. Sarabia, E. Fleming, Harry Comerford, S. Patch (non –voting)

Guests: John Mullin (UMASS/CED), Ally Manuel (UMASS/CED), John Goodrich (MOPC), Chief James Ayotte, Lt. Kevin Landine

Members Absent: L. Childs, S. Krasnecky

Call to Order

Chairman Tex Sarabia called the meeting convened at 12:00 PM.

Acceptance of Minutes 1/15/2015

Tabled until 2/26/2015.

Update Interviews to Date

Professor Mullin updated members of the committee on meetings held with representatives from the Quabbin Regional School District, Youth Commission, Police, Fire, and Sewer departments.

Superintendent Marshall advised that in her opinion, Hardwick Elementary School will remain in place over the next five years. There is a possibility that extra space may be available under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for youth type programs. Capital needs at the elementary school roof replacement, parking lot improvements and replacement of the telephone PA system. The most expensive of these will be the roof. An engineering study will be conducted to determine life of the existing roof and replacement cost.

Youth Commission Chairman Liz Reilly and Youth Center Coordinator Kim Wright advised that approximately 70 children (40 children the most at one time) are participating in programs at the Youth Center. They feel that more children would be participating if they were able expand the hours at the center. Greatest need is in Gilbertville. They would like to see location remain in Gilbertville as many participants walk to the center. It was noted that the kids prefer not to have youth programs held at the school. 40% of Hardwick’s children do not meet kindergarten standards. The Youth Commission is interested in linking with other social service type programs. Capital needs include a shared commercial kitchen and handicapped accessibility.

The Police Department has expressed an interest in leasing or purchasing the McCarthy Building (approximately 7,200 square feet) on Lower Road. The owner is receptive to either leasing or selling the building to the Town. The building is appraised at $325,000, assessed value is $314,000. Police have estimated that renovations to the building could cost up to $500,000. Lease option is $1,000.00 per month if the town under takes cost of renovations. If the owner renovates, the cost of renovation would be factored into the lease. Mr. McCarthy is also willing to lease back space for bus storage. A walk through of building is scheduled for Friday. Chief Ayotte Selectman Kenan Young, the Building Inspector and Bob Begin, Eagle Hill Facilities Manager will tour the building. Other capital needs identified were police radios estimated at $100,000 over the next five years. The Chief would also like to include a fourth full-time police officer. The Town is sharing police services with New Braintree, which help offset some costs. New Braintree police budget $116,000.

Fire Department capital needs include equipment needed to comply with safety regulations as follows:

30 Air packs @ $6,500 each

30-30 sets Turn-Out Gear @ $2,500 each

Additionally, the department is need of an extractor to maintain the equipment. Estimated cost $25,000. The Fire Department has applied for a FEMA Firefighters assistance grant for equipment and a new truck. The department has advised that there is an urgent need for equipment (safety and potential liability concerns) need for equipment if funding is not approved. Should the Town receive funding under the grant the department does not have storage space for the new truck.

Sewer Department

Capital improvements Gilbertville Plant borrowing (USDA loan/grant) authorized up to $5M. Spring 2015 construction begins. Wheelwright Waste Water estimated $500,000.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Next Steps

* Schedule Interviews w/ Highway Department, Senior Center/COA, Libraries, Recycling, Selectmen
* Working Meeting with CED, MOPC, USDA and PVPC
* 2/17/15 Update Selectmen MOPC/Sherry

Next Meeting

Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 12:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Patch, Town Administrator