

Capital Planning Committee

January 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes
Remote meeting via Zoom

Call to Order: Committee Chair Jonathan Barry called the meeting to order at 6:39 PM. Those present included Mr. Barry, Peter Berube, Jim McCaffrey, John Corcoran, Kerri Roche, Carol Johnson and Mike Guzinski.

The committee approved minutes from the September 29 and October 8, 2020 meetings with all in favor and none opposed.

Jim McKay – director of the DPW spoke with the committee about the need for an engineering study to address the PFAS issue that has resulted in the shut down of wells 1 and 2, which were determined to be above the state limit for PFAS exposure. The DPW has applied for a grant of approximately \$200k to help cover potential design work towards the construction of a water treatment plant, which could cost somewhere between \$3.5 and \$4.5 million, depending on the findings of the study. The town may consider taking legal action against GAF company to help pay for some of the costs of a new plant. It is possible that well 3 and wells 4 & 5 may need to have similar action taken at some point in the future, but not at the present time.

Ms. Johnson briefly reviewed a number of capital requests that have come through so far, including a van, smaller vehicle and refrigeration system for the COA, a new ambulance and a new police cruiser. The school department has not yet submitted requests, and Ms. Roche indicated she would follow up with the school finance director at an upcoming school committee meeting.

Mr. Barry noted that the town's energy manager – Bob Weiss has inquired about potential items that might be considered for a green communities grant, and the committee determined that it was worth having him investigate if the COA vehicle requests might qualify if we were to pursue electric/hybrid vehicles. Mr. Barry indicated he would reach out to Mr. Weiss to discuss.

Mr. Corcoran also noted that he knew of a vendor who dealt in used industrial kitchen equipment and it may be possible to get the equipment the COA is looking for at a lower cost than their current estimate. Mr. Corcoran indicated he would investigate this further and get back to Mr. Guzinski.

Ms. Roche noted that not much has happened with regards to potential alternatives for repairs to the middle/high school, as the school committee's focus over the past several months has been getting students back in school amid the COVID crisis. Ms. Roche indicated that she would work with the school committee to coordinate a date at which the school could give a more detailed overview of the report to the capital planning committee, so the CPC could begin to fold this analysis into the broader capital planning schedule.

The committee laid out a rough schedule between now and the May 3 town meeting, and agreed to meet on February 18 and March 4 to continue moving the process along.

Mr. McCaffrey let the committee know that studies for the Lansing Millis building have indicated that it would cost roughly \$1M to make this building habitable so that it could be used for other purposes. This does not include cost of interior work which could add another \$1M to the cost. Mr. McCaffrey also noted that plans toward developing a new senior center were currently on hold due to the many unknowns arising from COVID.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24pm.