



Town of Thomaston
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*Capital Improvement Committee
Selectmen's Conference Room*

Minutes

February 17, 2009, Tuesday 5pm

Members present: Ed Mone, Susan Costa, David Bertnagel, Marie Galbraith

Others present: Jamie Wilson, Ken Koval, Jim O'Neil, Eugene Torrence, press

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm.

Approve Minutes: Motion was made by Dave Bertnagel to approve the minutes as presented. Ed Mone seconded. Motion passed.

New Business:

Fire Department

Fire Engine 3 was scheduled to be replaced in 2010. J. Wilson hopes to get two-three more years out of the apparatus and are pushing it to 2012. The department is looking at purchasing a combo unit (part pumper and part rescue unit) thereby buying one apparatus to replace two. J Wilson claims the pumper is not used that often and they don't have the personnel. Cost is estimated at \$400,000.

The department currently has 6 trucks plus a utility vehicle. Department responds to approx 338 calls per year - tower is used 6.1% of those calls.

Department requests for next year that Rescue Utility 3 be replaced next year estimated at \$35,000. The current vehicle is a 1988 Chevy Suburban. It responds to small fuel spills and flooded basements. More economical to respond in this type of vehicle rather than roll out the larger apparatus. Department intends to use this vehicle more. Vehicle has only 25,000 miles but it is 21 years old and chassis is old. J Wilson said the department would be acceptable to a used vehicle if needed.

The firehouse generator is scheduled to be replaced in 2012 estimated at \$30,000. Department would rather plan and go out to bid for this item than have to purchase one in an emergency. G Torrence and S Laone (Board of Ed) have been seeking funding for a generator at the high school and have come up empty, so funds for firehouse are probably as limited.

Chief's vehicle is scheduled for replacement in 2013 estimated at \$30,000.

One item not reported is the roof which is leaking in three locations. This is a repair not a replacement.

Police Department.

G Torrence reported that scheduled replacement of 4 vehicles last year was not funded. Department must have at least 3 cruisers next year. A 4th admin car was requested but is willing to forgo one year - serious to get the 3 cruisers - important to the Town and the Department. Original request for 3 cruisers has been reduced to \$75,000 due to state bid (quote provided). Financing to be determined by Committee and/or Board of Finance.

Hour meters are installed in the vehicles and Oil changes are scheduled by hours. Extended warranties with Ford were included in last purchase and Ford took responsibility for 3 cooling fan assemblies. There is currently 120,000 miles on these vehicles. Per FORD, the formula used for translating idle time to miles is taking the hours and multiply by 33 - cars actually have 180,000 miles using this formula.

Every 3 years, three cars are needed. Due to the delay from last year, trade in value will be less. Important to get back on track to get a better trade in value.

Old Business.

Discussion ensued about the WPCA repair & replacement fund. WPCA's sinking fund contains approximately \$115,000. Sewer assessment fund contains \$232,000 but must be used for the collection system. Committee feels that WPCA should be looking at its equipment lists and determining scheduled replacement and setting aside adequate funds annually to the Repair & replacement fund for these replacements (major I&I and infrastructure excluded). The WPCA currently sets aside \$10,000 per year.

It was also noted that this is the first year generators have shown on the list of requests. S Costa reported that the generator at Hickory Hill pump station just went down. Rich Tingle said he was lucky to find parts due to the age.

According to State of CT DEP Clean Water Guidelines (1999 publication), "general rule in the literature has been to establish an annual payment of between 5% and 10% of total operations and maintenance budget to such a fund" and "IF the fund grows too large, you may need to re-evaluate your replacement schedule or your estimated cost of replacement".

S Costa to obtain an equipment list of the WPCA for the committee.

S. Costa reported that the Building committee will be taking care of the phone system and the partitions for Rooms 114 & 116 at the Center School and those items may be removed.

The Committee's next meeting will be held March 3, where projects will be rated. The Committee then makes its recommendations to the Board of Finance on March 10.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Recording of Minutes by Susan Costa.
February 18, 2009