

Hamilton Capital Committee
MINUTES OF MEETING
Via Zoom call
September 28, 2020

Members Present: Heather Ford, Chair
Jack Lawrence, Vice-Chair
Dave Thompson
Bill Wilson
Bob Woodbury

Guest: Ray Brunet, Fire Chief

1. **Heather called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.**
2. **Ray discussion regarding the Fire Department Capital budget:**
 - a. The only item for FY'21 is \$6K for ballistic vests and equipment in support of the ALICE (alert, lockdown, inform, counter, evacuate) program adopted by the schools. This is where the police go in to subdue the shooter rather than sheltering in place. The Fire Department would be behind the police entering churches or schools. Bill agreed with this expenditure although it may not be a capital item. There is also a \$748K grant shared with Rowley and Boxford not included in the total.
 - b. There is a squad truck for \$185K and defibrillators on fire apparatus for \$12K in FY'22. The police have budgeted \$9K for vests in FY'22. Ray described how Boxford, Rowley and Hamilton had collaborated on a grant for \$748K. This is an Assistance to Firefighters Grant on which Hamilton made the first round.
 - c. Ray described how the ECO repeaters (\$56K in FY'21) were needed to replace 20-year old repeaters and radios. The FCC made narrow band to sell more frequencies which made it harder to hear and created more dead spots. The old repeaters are not able to go to narrow band which created the dead spots making it unsafe for police and fire personnel.
3. **Discussion regarding H-1 Road and sidewalk repairs:** The road and sidewalk repairs are budgeted at \$90K per year but with \$240K Chapter 90 money from the state it should be \$330K per year. There was a discussion regarding how this should be reflected since Hamilton has no control over the grants. \$240K is expected but there is no obligation from the State. Tim Olson feels that \$330K is the right number. Tim takes the available money and spends it where the roads are worst. Marissa shows no dollars spent year-to-date within the capital expenditures for roads. The question was asked as to what happens to unused funds. Do they rollover to the next year? Dave felt the \$240K Chapter 90 money is a question for Joe. How should it be shown in the budget? What happens if not used? Why does the Marissa report show the \$240K as unused? There was speculation that perhaps most of the road spending happens in the Spring.

4. Vehicles

- a. V-2 Planer attachment stays in FY'21
- b. V-3 Grading blade for John Deere off, not capital
- c. V-5 \$125K for backhoe in FY'23
- d. V-6 \$28,273 for tractor in FY'23
- e. V-7 \$28,373 for tractor in FY'24
- f. V-9 \$150K for sanders in FY'23 and FY'24

5. Facilities

- a. F-9 move \$70K for boiler to FY'22
- b. F-10 \$50K for shed replacement in FY'22
- c. F-11 DPW garage roof \$50K in FY'22

6. Water

- a. W-1 meters at \$15K per year, remove all-not capital
- b. W-2 hydrant replacements at \$15K per year remove -not capital
- c. W-6 Browns Hill storage \$3MM to FY'24
- d. W-7 New 2nd water tank \$3MM to FY'25
- e. W-8 Chebacco Road water main \$1.5MM to FY'26
- f. W-10 Phase 4 water distribution \$1.6MM in FY'20
- g. W-11 Water feasibility study \$100K FY'21

7. **Cemetery**-Tim said he has no plans for paving.

8. **General**-add \$60K to digitize the files in FY'21 per Joe

9. **Rec and Library**-no changes

10. **Police and Fire**-no changes

11. **Affordable Housing and Open Space**-no spending

12. **Town Hall**- \$3MM from CPC for Town Hall will not require Town funds but will result in no funds for other projects for years.

13. Other topics

- a. Bill feels we need a campaign (akin to what has been described for the Town Hall) to promote the water expense needs. Dave has suggested to Tim that it may be beneficial to make a presentation to the Town. The water quality and quantity are okay through 2035 but the water bans are difficult for the Town. Also, the Fire Department water needs are important. Jack asked about the adequacy of the water sources/pressure for fire suppression.
- b. The CapCom anticipates another joint meeting with the FinCom in December.
- c. Jack will attend the FinCom meeting on 9/30/20.
- d. CapCom discussed the relative merits of the water needs versus the Town Hall. The water impacts more people in Town than does the Town Hall. The "must haves" (fire suppression, ADA, bathrooms, etc.) represent roughly half of the total Town Hall cost.
- e. Dave will discuss with Tim the cost of the feasibility study and our feeling that it needs to be done as a condition of the additional \$13MM.
- f. Jack that the Town Hall project can be finished and used later if the water needs preempt the Town Hall. However, the digitization needs to be done quickly.
- g. The issue of water inadequacy for fire suppression has been a topic since 2014.

- h. Dave suggested that the water needs can be pushed out given the adequacy of quantity and quality of water through 2035 and the need to see what the feasibility study reveals.
- 14. **Next Meeting:** Scheduled for Monday, October 5th at 6 PM. The primary topic will be the prioritization of all projects for FY'21. We will develop a Word document to describe our process for prioritization.
- 15. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 PM.