

Canaan Capital Improvement Program Committee Minutes - Meeting on September 20, 2022

The meeting began at 3:05 PM in the Canaan Emergency Operations Center.

Committee Members Present:

Claude Lemoi, Dan Collins, Tom Milligan, Sadie Wells via Zoom

Others Attending:

Mike Samson, Bob Cushman, Guy England, Salvator Percia, Ellie Davis

Proceedings:

Tom Milligan made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2022 meeting, Dan Collins seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

The use of Zoom to make CIP meetings more available to the public was discussed. It was recognized that this is not a feasible option unless the Town can provide a person with the technical skills and time to set up the equipment for each meeting and moderate the Zoom sessions. It was suggested that You Tube recordings might be the next best option. This will be considered.

Updates to the Major Mobile Equipment CIP plan were reviewed. Mike Samson presented the planning improvements he has added to the Excel planning tool, building in adjustable inflation factors for both equipment costs and Capital Reserve investments in future years. The most important change reviewed is to abandon the previously proposed plan to lease four pieces of Highway Equipment. Instead, it is currently proposed to purchase a used 6 wheel dump truck at a greatly reduced cost, to purchase a ten wheel dump truck and a backhoe using available Capital Reserves, and to obtain a ten year bank loan to finance the purchase of a four-wheel drive grader. This plan seems to fit within the Town's financial capacity.

The basic replacement plans for Fire and Ambulance equipment are unchanged, but Mike Samson will adjust the inflation factors and include trade-in estimates in these two sections of the planning tool to be consistent with the improvements made in the Highway section of the tool.

In the Buildings section of the CIP, Bob Cushman has requested proposals for Highway Garage expansion options, which will be ready for review at the next meeting.

Water & Sewer system capital needs, although not funded from general taxes, are included in the Buildings section of the planning tool. There are funding challenges, and several major projects are planned to apply as much Federal Funding as possible while it is available. Mike Samson is balancing the income required from user fees with other funding sources to minimize increases in user fees and still complete required projects.

In the Bridges section of the CIP plan, Mike reported that he was recently notified that the promise of Federal (Economic Development Authority) funding has been withdrawn. As a result, the replacement of the two Rail Trail trestle bridges over the Indian River (for flood prevention) is not currently funded and will not proceed. As a promising alternative to allow the replacement of the Transfer Station bridge to proceed, Mike is obtaining a proposal from a private company for a pre-fabricated bridge. The replacement of two other bridges (Potato Road and Grist Mill Hill Road) remain in the CIP plan, funded as usual by a combination of State DOT and Town Capital Reserve funds.

The specific date and time of the next CIP meeting will be determined by the committee soon, and will be posted as usual on the Town web site and communicated in the weekly Town email newsletter.

Dan Collins made a motion to adjourn, Tom Milligan seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted:
Claude Lemoi