

TOWN OF FRANCONIA
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN MEETING
NOVEMBER 4, 2020 AT TOWN HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Foss, Steve Plant, Peter Grote.

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Cowles

The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm.

Highway Department: The Committee reviewed the updated spreadsheets. Chairman Foss said she was a little concerned about the Highway Departments plan to purchase a Dodge 5500 in 2022 and a Ford F550 to be purchased in 2023. Steve said the estimates given by Scott were reasonable for those types of trucks.

Chairman Foss said in the Truck Fund, funding for the Ten Wheeler and Sander has been stopped and \$5,000 reallocated to the Excavator. Scott previously said that the estimates for the excavator and trailer are low but Chairman Foss said the the balance in that fund is still healthy at \$72,000, in spite of \$14,000 being spent on the Grader this year.

\$81,000 was spent from Road Improvements.

\$34,800 was spent from the Sidewalk Fund this year. Town Administrator Cowles expressed some concerns about the amount of money in the fund and how much next year's paving of Main Street will be. She thinks the fund will be exhausted and there will be additional funds needed. She will seek a detailed estimate to try to determine what needs to be done for funding.

Chairman Foss that she heard that the town was holding off on spending Road Improvement expenses in anticipation of doing work at Mittersill. Kim said that Scott told her that \$79,100 was taken from Highway Improvement to be used for Bickford Hill Bridge in 2019. Kim said a total of \$161,454 was spent on the bridge and she is not yet sure where \$82,354 of that is coming from. She will continue to work on that and get back to the Committee.

The Mittersill project cost \$101,100: \$45,000 from Highway Improvement CRF, \$13,000 comes out of his budget line item and the remaining \$43,000 comes from the Highway Block Grant.

Buildings & Grounds: Chairman Foss commented that the town still has a Gravely mower to sell. There is also a Wright Standing 36" mower that is no longer used and can also be sold.

Chairman Foss said nothing was spent on Town Building Maintenance this year. Kim said we are looking at sealing the parking lot of the Safety Services Building next year and the back steps of town hall need to be replaced. She would like to put gutters on part of the building as well. The parking lot at town hall needs to be redone as well but we are waiting to do that after the new Welcome Center is built. Chairman Foss said that parking lots don't fall under Buildings Maintenance and this led to a discussion about how parking lots would be funded in the future. For this year it was suggested to do a warrant article.

Police Department: Chairman Foss wondered what the Dodge Charger is planned to be replaced with in 2023; another cruiser or an SUV. They will check with Chief Cashin.

Life Squad: The ambulance is scheduled to be replaced in 2023. The funding will stay as is. The Stryker Cot, scheduled for replacement in 2024 for \$50,000 will deplete the fund. Chairman Foss suggested there may be a grant available.

Chairman Foss said she would like to propose a warrant article this year to allocate some of the Life Squad's surplus to their capital reserves. There was next a brief discussion about the Fund Balance and the tax rate.

Fire Department: Chairman Foss said that Chief Gaudette suggested that the funding for the tanker truck could be reduced. Chairman Foss said that funding will be continued in the same amounts as last year. Chief Gaudette is currently investigating trading in two of his vehicles towards a new truck. Steve offered to check in with Chief Gaudette for some more details.

Miscellaneous Departments: Chairman Foss said the funding for the van and Dow field will be continued in the same amounts as last year.

The funding will be continued in the same amount for the library's roof replacement. The Committee is waiting for a professional estimate for the cost of the slate roof replacement.

Heritage Museum will be continued in the same amounts.

The balance in the Tri-town Transfer Station's fund was increased due to the dissolution of the tri-town fund and the respective amounts being dispersed to the towns. With the current balance of \$86,000, no funding is proposed for 2021. There was a brief discussion about the merits of investing in a scale and the processes at the Transfer Station.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:08 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary