

**Capital Improvement Committee  
Town of Willington  
40 Old Farms Road  
Willington, CT 06279  
January 20, 2021  
6:30 PM  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

*Virtual Meeting via ZOOM*

Members Present: Chairman Stuart Cobb, First Selectwoman Erika Wieceński, Christina Mailhos, Cari Donaldson, Orlando Rodriguez, Stephanie Summers, and BOF Chairman Michael Makuch.

Members Absent: John Patton and Geoff Prusak.

Others Present: Donna Latinsics; Business Manager, Alex Moore; Chief WFD#1, Tom Snyder Chief WHFD, Joseph Colangelo; Parks and Rec Commission.

The meeting of the Capital Improvement Committee was called to order at 6:30PM by Chairman Cobb.

First Selectwoman Wieceński moved to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2021 regular meeting.

Steph Summers seconded the motion.

**Vote: 7 Yes (Wieceński, Cobb, Mailhos, Summers, Rodriguez, Donaldson, Makuch). 0 No. 0 Abstain.**

**Motion Passes.**

**Present to Speak**

No one was present to speak.

**Parks and Rec Submittals**

Joseph Colangelo, Chairman of the Willington Parks and Rec Commission, stated the first request is for the pickle ball court. This would go where the sand volleyball court currently is at River Road. We don't get much use on the volleyball court and believe it would be better purposed as a pickle ball court. Before Maureen left she had set up a pickle ball court on the basketball court.

Joseph Colangelo stated we are also looking for lighting along the back of the walking track. We are about to install the lights at the basketball court, the playscape, and the current volleyball court. With those lights and the parking lot lights if we added a few pole lights in the back of the track it would give people the ability to walk after dark.

Joseph Colangelo stated we also requested all-purpose field lights which we have had in CIP for a long time. We hope we can light up the soccer field as an all-purpose field to extend its use.

Cari Donaldson asked if they are getting rid of the sandy area all together.

Joseph Colangelo replied yes we are going to try to repurpose the sand by moving some to the water front and hopefully leaving behind a small sandbox for kids to play in.

Chairman Cobb stated the request for the pickle ball court has come to CIP for the last couple years. I believe it came close to being approved before Covid hit.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski stated Maureen did have the basketball court lined for pickle ball and did have some programs for pickle ball so it seems to be pretty popular.

Cari Donaldson stated there are always kids playing in the sand that is meant for volleyball. Where were you thinking of putting a sandbox and what size.

Joseph Colangelo replied probably 10x10 and it would be adjacent to the area with the swings.

Chairman Cobb asked in terms of the turf project and the lighting of the field, are there any other grants out there to help pay for these.

Joseph Colangelo replied I'm sure there is and it looks like we have a new Rec Director so we are going to have to her look for grants. We have found the all-purpose field can't take all the action that it gets and the grass is hard to maintain. Having turf and lights there makes it something we may be able to make money off of with local soccer and possibly lacrosse.

Mike Makuch stated there was a move under way for the property that is just north of the two river crossings to be put into a private league for soccer. Would their field take away some of the need for our field?

Joseph Colangelo stated we have found there are never enough soccer fields.

### **Fire Department Submittals**

#### **Willington FD #1**

Chief Moore stated our first request is to replace the SCBA cylinders. This is for 18,475 in the upcoming year and would replace thirteen 45 minute bottles and one 60 minute cylinder. They are expiring this upcoming year, DOT regulations prohibit us from using these cylinders once they expire which is 15 years after the date of manufacturing.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski asked if there is a reason we would buy 45 minute bottles as opposed to 60 minute.

Mike Makuch replied the big bottles are heavy and more expensive so we use the smaller bottles when possible.

Chief Moore stated the next project is for the 800MHz radio system. This will be a joint project with Willington Hill FD. The town started going into this system last year with public works. The hope is that we will be able to outfit all the apparatuses and officers with this technology. These are through the state and they are a little bit expensive but we would be able to talk from one end of town to the other on a portable radio.

Chairman Cobb stated the bulk of the portable radios we have now were purchased between 2003 and 2005, some of the low band radios are from before I joined the department. Technology has advanced and the nice thing is that the infrastructure behind the radio is owned by the State of Connecticut and they are responsible for maintaining it, we are only responsible for our own local radios.

Chief Snyder stated we do currently have a lot of dropped communications and communication gaps that we can't fix without a new system.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski stated the school is also looking at the same system as Phil mentioned last week. This system has improved communication for public works. I noticed Chief Moore stated on the request that some towns use STEAP and Cares Act funding so it maybe something for us to think about if funding comes around again.

Mike Makuch stated it looks like you're planning to replace all of your fire ground communication.

Chief Moore replied eventually it will but not right away.

Mike Makuch stated my concern is we have paid a lot of money to move to narrow banding then to move off of low band. This is another higher frequency band; it's a huge amount of tax payer money buying radio equipment. I'm concerned with how many systems we have and spending money on a system that we learn is going to be obsolete.

Chairman Cobb replied there is a hook-in to TN system right now for testing purposes 3378-800, it has been up and running for 6-8 months. They expect to put the equivalent of 86, 48 and all the other low band channels cross to both UHF and 800. We will still be able to talk together with all of it. 800MHz and 700 P25 phase 2 is as advanced as a non-military market can buy so I don't believe becoming obsolete will be a problem.

Chief Moore stated the next request is for the purchase of the ambulance. This was originally slated to be replaced this year but we've opted to try to push it out to 22-23. The ambulance should be paid off now so we are trying to have fund 17 generate a little more money before we purchase a new truck. We are still trying to evaluate if we are going to increase to a second ambulance and keep the current truck. One thing we have learned when our truck goes out of service it means we are not generating revenue for that time.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski stated you have this broken out through years 2-5, is the plan to purchase it in 22-23 and then \$50,000 in years 3-5 are representing the lease payments?

Chief Moore replied that's correct.

Chairman Cobb stated the \$25,000 in 22-23 is because we would purchase it six months into the year so there would only be six months' worth of payments in that year.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski asked for the total cost of the ambulance.

Chief Moore replied \$300,000 and that's going off of some surrounding departments that have replaced trucks recently.

Chief Moore stated the next project is the addition to Station 13. This has been on the plan for a while, the town put in \$75,000 about 5 or 6 years ago to get original plans as to what we need and what we could make work on our site. It's coming more prevalent now especially with Covid because our station is very small, we have two people in the building 24/7 so we are hoping to get this project moving this year with \$80,000 for the final planning, engineering and inspections. This is to provide training areas, bunker rooms, storage, and additional office space.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski stated this is also our EOC (Emergency Operation Center) for the town, when there are large events like our recent tropical storm, it is inadequate at best.

Steph Summers asked for an explanation of the \$80,000.

Chief Moore replied it is the final design and construction documents to be able to go out to bid. The bond payment would be in the subsequent years.

Christina Mailhos asked what the \$75,000 for equipment would cover.

Chief Moore replied that would be the desks, telephone systems, offices, etc.

Chairman Cobb stated the original plan was that when the library was about to be paid off, if this plan was approved we would roll the fire house payment into the system and the library would come off so there wouldn't be a big jump in the tax rates.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski stated I see the library coming off in 2027 so this would be a little ahead of that.

Chairman Cobb replied I believe there is a bond anticipation note that comes out ahead of the bond and you can defer that a year.

Mike Makuch stated this conversation started soon after the library bond payment started and when Willington Hill came looking for money to buy land on Ruby Road for a new fire station, that's what they were told as well. Anyone looking for a new big building in town has been told for years, you have to wait until the library is paid for.

Chief Moore stated our next request is to replace the fit test machine. This is also a joint project with Willington Hill. Our current fit test machine which does our air packs is no longer supported and is out of date. It is a requirement that every member wearing an air pack or an N95 mask needs to be fit tested. This would allow us to do our own testing in house. Our current machine cannot test the N95 masks.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski asked if the machine travels between the two stations.

Chief Moore replied yes.

Chairman Cobb stated the current machine is no longer supported at all and we can't get it calibrated anymore. We bought this back in 2005 with a grant. The new unit can test the N95 masks and you have to be tested on every brand of masks you use.

Chief Moore stated our last request is for repairing the front aprons. They are the transitions between the interior of the bay floor to the pavement. The original concrete aprons failed years ago and were removed and covered with asphalt. Since then the pavement has started to crack and has been compressed by the trucks to where it allows water and cold air into the bays. Excavation is needed in front of the bays and concrete forms installed. This request is for \$30,000 in the next fiscal year.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski asked if the requested addition affects this work at all.

Chief Moore replied we could wrap it all into one project because there will be pavement work that needs to be done in both. Our fear is that if the addition doesn't move forward, we still need to get this done because it is causing a huge heating issue.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski asked if the addition is slated to go on the left or the right side if you are looking at the building.

Chief Moore replied left side.

### **Willington Hill FD**

Chief Snyder stated in year 21-22 we have a request for replacement of Service Truck 149 which I believe was funded before Covid hit. The price stays at \$70,000. I have quotes that I sent in along with the request. There are 2 quotes from 2 different Ford dealers one for \$38,000 and one for \$39,000 these are for the vehicle alone with approximately \$30,000 for cabinetry, radios, lights, etc. Most are vehicle specific.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski asked how much money they have put into repairs for this vehicle.

Chief Snyder replied we have been putting off the major repairs which are our major concerns such as rust issues, transmission, and exhaust manifolds and they are slowly getting worse. The value of the vehicle last year was only \$4,000. We don't think it's a good use of taxpayer dollars to put money into based on the value. We have been doing the service and general repairs ourselves.

Christina Maillhos asked what they plan to do with the current vehicle after purchasing a replacement.

Chief Snyder replied we typically sell them.

Orlando Rodriguez asked if they have looked at government surplus auctions.

Chief Snyder replied no we look at government bid pricing.

Orlando Rodriguez stated the state and Feds both have online auctions for vehicles.

Mike Makuch stated I do watch the auctions and I think there are the rare good deals but most have already served their purpose.

Orlando Rodriguez asked about purchasing vehicles that are a year or two old.

Chief Snyder replied those are usually consumer vehicles and we would pay more for that then we would a new vehicle.

Mike Makuch stated this does have me thinking there is a dealership in Eastford that sells used and refurbished ambulances.

Chief Snyder stated for the property across the street we are getting closer in terms of permits and satisfying all the necessary adjustments to occupy the facility. We really need to have surveying and architecture come in and check the facility so we can make the best use of the property.

Chairman Cobb asked what stipulations planning and zoning put down in terms of the use of that property.

Chief Snyder stated we are basically done satisfying their requests, I think we still need to put in a furnace diverter but they are allowing us to use the building however we need.

Chairman Cobb asked do you need to acquire a certificate of occupancy for the church in order to use it.

Mike Makuch replied the church and the house have existing certificates of occupancy. The compliance needs that are being met now are the building permit for what is called change of occupancy which updates it to a different classification of use. We have been working on those items such as the handicap spaces.

Chief Snyder stated the next request is for 22-23 it is to replace the SCBA air packs. They will be non-compliant in 2023. I did submit a quote and this does include the air bottles which we don't need so we can subtract the \$30,000 from that quote.

Chief Snyder stated the next request in 22-23 is moving forward with the 25 Old Farms Road project. We do have the property and we are moving forward with surveying. I have requested \$100,000 for engineering and design of the new fire house. We were told the current fire house property has a value of between \$300-\$400k. The engineering will give us a better idea of what the options are and allow us to get better pricing moving forward.

Chief Snyder stated the next project is for 23-24 and is \$35,000 to repair and cover the concrete in the apparatus bays of the current fire house. The quote I received recently is for \$25,000.

Chief Snyder stated the next project is in 24-25 for the parking lot repair. The quotes are to pull up the parking lot, regrade, and repave. Perhaps this can be combined with other paving projects.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski stated there was money in the 17-18 budget to repair the parking lot, it left off at planning and zoning.

Chief Snyder replied I'm not sure where that stands.

First Selectwoman Wiecewski stated I thought there were some issues with abutting properties and water flow. Are there still funds allocated for this project?

Donna Latinisics replied I don't believe so.

Mike Makuch stated we did eventually get through the zoning and at that point the \$45,000 that was allocated based on the quote from previous PW Director Derek was determined to not be enough money to cover the project. The money was then redirected to somewhere else.

Donna Latinisics stated I will look into this.

Steph Summers asked if this could be combined with the Hall School parking lot paving.

First Selectwoman Wiecewski replied it depends if they are in the same year.

Chief Snyder stated our last request is for refurbishment of engine ET149 which is a 1991 Mack. I put this out in the last year.

### Review of Ongoing Projects

First Selectwoman Wiecewski stated the parking lot lights at the park are ongoing and they hope to finish up the pole installation tomorrow weather permitting. They should have this project finished up shortly. I haven't heard anything from the senior center as far as their projects. We have heard all of the requests. Do we think we need a field trip to look at some of these projects?

The committee agreed to hold a meeting Saturday January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00PM starting at Public Works.

Mike Makuch stated when I was looking over the request for the fire monitoring system I realized Willington Hill wasn't included in that request.

First Selectwoman Wiecewski replied it might work out to switch them with the library because they have decided to move forward with ADT.

Chairman Cobb stated we will look at the big project spread sheet next week as well as the funding worksheet.

Steph Summers asked if we have grouped together paving projects in the past.

Chairman Cobb replied for the most part no because of timing.

Steph Summers stated it might be worth looking into since we have several paving project requests.

Mike Makuch moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15PM. First Selectwoman Wiecewski seconded the motion.

**Vote: All Yes.**

Respectfully Submitted:  
Catharine Holcroft  
Recording Secretary

TOWN OF WILLINGTON, CT  
Received for record January 27<sup>th</sup>  
At 12:43PM RH