

**Capital Improvement Committee  
Town of Willington  
40 Old Farms Road  
Willington, CT 06279  
February 10, 2021  
6:30 PM  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

*Virtual Meeting via ZOOM*

Members Present: Chairman Stuart Cobb, First Selectwoman Erika Wiecenski, Christina Mailhos, Cari Donaldson and BOF Chairman Michael Makuch.

Members Absent: John Patton, Stephanie Summers, Geoff Prusak, and Orlando Rodriguez.

Others Present: Donna Latincsics; Business Manager.

The meeting of the Capital Improvement Committee was called to order at 6:41PM by Chairman Cobb.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to table the approval of the minutes until next meeting when we have a quorum.

**Present to Speak**

No one was present.

**Additional Plan Discussion of Year 1**

Mike Makuch stated they may come back to year one if they feel the need to shuffle things around after looking at the out years.

Chairman Cobb stated I believe the BOS are going to include this in their budget, at least year one.

**Additional Plan Discussion of out years 2-5**

Chairman Cobb stated I believe we left off at the Village Hill Drainage project where we put in the excavator lease payment in hopes that some work could get done on this project. The next project would be installing the storm water treatment chamber at Public Works. This project has been sitting in the plan for years so we have to decide if it's something we can continue to push out.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated I think it is something we should move forward with, we are currently looking at LoCIP funds.

Chairman Cobb stated the next project is the Willington FD #1 driveway repair. Someone had asked if we could add that into the addition financing.

Mike Makuch stated it seems like something that should happen sooner than that especially with the heat they are losing.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated I believe the continuation of the open space funding needs to be tied to whether or not the grant and the project they are asking for this year happens if that doesn't happen then they haven't used any of their funds, this request is to replenish those funds. I'm not opposed to purchasing open space or replenishing that fund but we have to consider the fire departments and schools that need projects completed as well and we have to decide if we have funds for all of this. First Selectwoman Wiecenski asked if we can move this out one year.

Chairman Cobb replied yes we could skip a year.

Donna Latinsics recommended the recovery fund for the driveway project at Willington FD #1.

Chairman Cobb agreed.

Chairman Cobb asked First Selectwoman Wicinski for her thoughts on the surveying at the church property owned by WHFD.

First Selectwoman Wicinski stated as of right now it is not a town owned building and the town hasn't decided where they are going with our fire departments. I think part of a larger discussion. I did speak with Peter Tanaka who is the chair of the Emergency Services Committee and encouraged him to call a meeting in this forum so we can have an honest discussion about the direction the town is going. At the end of last year we started to look at a bond for some of the larger projects and whether or not we would want to put some of them together and what that is going to cost.

Mike Makuch stated if we are going to bond a large chunk of money we need to come up with the best possible plan for the tax players.

Chairman Cobb stated some people have mixed feelings about combining projects and if someone doesn't like one of the projects in that grouping it might drag them all down. I know Stafford has tried doing it a couple times and got shot down. If something like a municipal improvement bond gets shut down, the question is why. Maybe we should push that \$10,000 for surveying and architecture of 25 Old Farms Road until we have more information and the \$100,000 for the design and engineering out to year four.

First Selectwoman Wicinski stated I think we need to spend money on a study of municipal facilities as a whole and this will give us the best information.

Mike Makuch stated our local funds spending for year two is close to the number in year one. Are we funding enough of the towns needs with this small growth or are we better off keeping it flat year to year.

Chairman Cobb stated as we go through year 3 if there is something not too big, we can push it back into year 2.

First Selectwoman Wicinski asked Donna what we have going into the Capital Reserve in year 2.

Donna Latinsics replied \$290,889.

Chairman Cobb stated there are over \$225,000 worth of school maintenance projects in year 3. We don't know how soon a decision on a new school would be.

First Selectwoman Wicinski stated I would hope by this time next year we have made some progress as to what direction we would like to go.

Chairman Cobb stated line 103 is the Liska Road project; we can throw that into the group with the bond anticipation note. Hopefully we can get some better information this year with the engineering so we have a better idea on an updated cost for this project.

First Selectwoman Wicinski asked Donna and Christina, if STEAP funds become available and we are able to do one of these projects, do we need to budget the entire amount of the project.

Christina Mailhos replied it is reimbursable so yes.

Donna Latinsics replied it depends on the grant whether it is going to be paid in one total up front or if it is going to be reimbursed.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski asked if we can put line 117 for the bus lot paving to LoCIP.

Chairman Cobb replied yes I don't think we have anything else going to LoCIP in this year.

Chairman Cobb stated line 139 for the soccer field lighting I think needs to be pushed out at least another year.

Mike Makuch stated I agree.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski asked Donna if LoCIP could cover the \$65,000 for walking track lighting.

Donna Latinsics replied no.

Chairman Cobb stated we could do either the bus lot paving or the walking track lights out of LoCIP but not both. We could also push the walking track lighting out a year and put it under LoCIP funding.

Mike Makuch stated the \$227,500 for fire department radios is a big project in year 3; however this is something both departments agree they need.

Chairman Cobb stated I would ask if STEAP funding becomes available, perhaps this project could be funded with that or at least partially. Are they still expecting \$128,000 for STEAP?

First Selectwoman Wiecenski replied I have not seen STEAP going forward.

Mike Makuch stated I feel comfortable leaving year 3 at \$710,903 since we will be revisiting this year anyways.

Chairman Cobb stated if we assume for planning purposes a new school, are we going to continue to try to ignore the Hall School and Center School projects.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski replied it would be one or the other in many cases.

Donna Latinsics moved the school projects out to year 5.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated even if we still use one of these buildings for example as a town office building there would be some projects that no longer apply.

Chairman Cobb stated the two big projects at River Road Park which are the turf and the lighting add up to a lot of money within our plan.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated it is a heavily used park.

Chairman Cobb stated other request will come in over the next couple years and add to what is now years 3, 4, and 5. Some departments don't fit well with long term planning and there are things that come up.

Mike Makuch stated I can see why they want the turf at River Road but I can't see that happening for \$480,000 at this point.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated I can't see both of these projects happening in the same year.

Mike Makuch stated I don't see us having half a million dollars for a turf field. Maybe as we come out of Covid the Rec Department will really be able to get some programs going.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated we have to remember that field can be used for more than just soccer.

Mike Makuch stated perhaps they can come back in a year or two with some more information on the demand and what they can charge for people to use the facilities, and then we would feel more comfortable paying for it.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski asked if the big projects for the fire departments had been included in the bond payment.

Chairman Cobb replied line 129 for the addition to Willington 1 is in there but I'm not sure there has been a request for the whole project amount form Willington Hill.

Mike Makuch stated I thought Tom had put in a request at one point for the total amount in year 5.

Chairman Cobb replied I believe you are right it was something around 3.7 million it was requested in years past. Department heads are supposed to resubmit for projects each year.

Chairman Cobb asked if they should move the request for the field lighting into year 5.

Mike Makuch replied yes it gives us more time to see the demand.

Donna Latincsics asked Chairman Cobb if he would like to move a couple of the projects to reserve funding.

Chairman Cobb replied yes line 135 the \$100,000 for the design and engineering of WHFD and the \$80,000 for the parking lot repair at WHFD.

Mike Makuch stated depending on how the planning goes you may not need both of these projects.

Chairman Cobb stated I suggest PW carefully inspect their bridge inspection reports so we are aware of what's out there and what is coming up.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated at the end of December we met with Carl and took a look at the bridge reports so Troy will be planning for that.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski asked what is in the general reserve at the end of this plan.

Donna Latincsics replied at the year of year 5 \$284,000.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:09PM.

Mike Makuch seconded the motion.

**Vote: All Yes.**

Respectfully Submitted:  
Catharine Holcroft  
Recording Secretary

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