Members Present: First Selectwoman Erika Wiecenski, Chairman Stuart Cobb, Peter Tanaka, Stef Summers, Geoff Prusak, John Patton, Rick Maloney, Christina Mailhos and BOF Chairman Michael Makuch

Others Present: Donna Latincsics; Business Manager, Troy Sposato; Director of Public Works and Don Berg; Chairman of Housing Authority, Phil Stevens; Superintendent, and Joe Piatek; Senior Center Treasurer.

The meeting of the Capital Improvement Program Committee was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Stuart Cobb.

1. Present to Speak

No one was present to speak.

Don Berg was present at the meeting to give the board members an updated quote on the housing authorities request for a generator at Button Hill. The quote was from Patnode Electric for $55,000. First Selectwoman Wiecenski asked if this quote included engineering. Don Berg replied no not on this quote and mentioned perhaps this company does the engineering themselves.

Joe Piatek; Senior Center Treasurer, was also present to answer any questions on the two items that were submitted by the senior center at the last meeting. Chairman Cobb asked if he could go over their submittals. Joe Piatek stated that as of right now the senior center has two vehicles, a van that is around ten years old and a bus that they have had about five years and has 125,000-130,000 miles on it. He stated the bus is old, noisy, and falling apart at this point. He added that in the last couple months they have made a safety procedural change to using the bus if any passengers have a difficult time getting in or out of the van where in the past if no one was in a wheelchair they didn’t use the bus. Joe stated that they have put a lot of money into the vehicles for repairs, around $17,000 over the years including gas, oil, driver training, and repairs. He added that if they were able to get a new bus, they could drop down to just having one vehicle. Chairman Cobb asked what portion of the $17,000 was used for repairs. Joe Piatek replied that he would estimate a little more than half. He added that they did have to replace the wheelchair lift on the bus which they could potentially use on the new bus. Peter Tanaka asked if this bus is the same one we got used from another town. Joe Piatek replied yes. Chairman Cobb asked how many trips per month the senior center takes and how many people attend. Joe Piatek replied that they have two definite trips every month. Chairman Cobb asked how they determined the cost of the request ($75,000). Joe Piatek responded that they had looked at buses online and in flyers. Chairman Cobb asked if they have looked into coordinating trips with other towns or sharing a bus to use on coordinating days. Joe
Piatek replied that they have tried to coordinate trips with other towns using a bus service, but it has not worked out because they can’t fill the whole bus to keep costs down.

Joe Piatek stated that the senior center building has been there for fourteen years and the interior as well as some of the exterior have never been painted. He stated both are included in their submitted request. Joe stated that the walls are getting dirty and he thinks painting them is something they should be thinking about.

2. Approval of Minutes

Selectwoman Wiecenski motioned to accept the minutes as corrected. Mike Makuch seconded the motion.

Vote: 8 Yes (Selectwoman Wiecenski, Chairman Cobb, Peter Tanaka, Stef Summers, Geoff Prusak, Mike Makuch, Rick Maloney, and Christina Mailhos). 0 No. 1 Abstain (John Patton).

3. Public Works Submittals

Troy Sposato stated item 2.1 is for a bucket truck and added they currently don’t have one. He stated that they currently pay Linden Tree Service $25,000 a year to trim trees and it costs $1,400 a day for them to come and about $375 for them to come a take a limb out of a tree, so even if they just come out to get a hanger that’s over the road it cost the $375. Troy stated that if they had the bucket truck, they could do it themselves. Christina Mailhos stated that one of the reasons she believed they had the tree service is for when they have emergencies and all the Willington workers are needed to do other things. Chairman Cobb asked what sort of training would be needed to operate the bucket truck. Troy Sposato stated that T2 does a bucket truck class so that everyone could get certified he added that one of their guys is currently certified therefore it wouldn’t be a cost to the town. Stef Summers asked what kind of expertise is needed to deal with the trees. Troy Sposato responded that Todd did work for Linden Tree Service, so he does have some experience. Chairman Cobb asked to clarify about the new/used piece of the request. Troy replied that it depends on what they can find possibly at auction as long as they are certified for the boom. He added that a new truck would be around $150,000-$180,000 but they have requested $100,000 hopeful they can find used. John Patton stated he thinks the bucket truck is a bad idea because it takes too much of the towns time especially when they already run out of time to get other things done.

Troy Sposato stated that item 2.2 paving the bus parking lot is out in year four. He stated that there is a large hole in the middle that creates a puddle and is a safety issue. Troy stated that they do go down there and frequently sand, but it still does get ice. He added that there is a catch basin there and this would make it so the water will go into the basin instead. Selectwoman Wiecenski asked if tractor trailers still use this as a turn around. Troy Sposato replied that there is a sign there but unfortunately, they still do. Mike Makuch asked what the current surface is. Troy Sposato replied that it is currently paved. Troy Sposato stated that he did receive a quote on paving for $40,000. Chairman Cobb asked if this is something their crew could pave themselves. Troy Sposato replied no because they don’t have a properly functioning paver box.
Troy Sposato stated item 2.3 is a new Ford Explorer to replace his pickup truck. He added that if he can replace his 2011 Ford F-350 truck, his truck could replace the maroon 2001 Chevy Silverado that is falling apart. Troy stated he doesn’t really need a big vehicle and can still put cones etc. in the back of an explorer which is more economical then the diesel he has now. He added that if they go to training classes, they can fit more people, saving on gas. Chairman Cobb asked if he currently goes out plowing with his F-350. Troy Sposato replied no. Christina Mailhos asked who currently drives the 2001 Chevy Silverado. Troy Sposato replied Matt at the transfer station and added that they have put a large amount of money into that truck this year.

Troy Sposato stated that item 2.4 is to install storm water interceptors. He added they would go up at the transfer station to bring the town into compliance with MS4. Chairman Cobb asked if anyone could explain the status of MS4. Troy Sposato stated the state is mandating that we comply with their standards because of our urban classification. Mike Makuch asked if anyone had figured out the GASB question they had at an earlier meeting this year. Troy Sposato stated that he spoke to Carl about it who stated that GASB was designed for the miles and the data on the road not for the drainage. Geoff Prusak stated that he believed it was supposed to categorize everything. John Patton stated it was for the roads, catch basins and the conditions of the road and doesn’t think they map the outfalls. Troy Sposato stated that they are meeting with Carl and Amanda Ryan from MS4 and she will explain a lot more. John Patton asked if public works has an interface with the GIS system. Troy Sposato replied that they are making it mandated that all the information goes into the GIS system so that everybody has it.

Troy Sposato stated that item 2.5 is for a John Deere excavator which they also don’t currently have. He stated that this ties into some of the road projects such as Schofield and Village Hill, if they had this equipment, they could start completing those. Troy stated the excavator is more versatile then the backhoe they have and doesn’t tie up the entire road. He added that they currently rent an excavator for projects but the problem with renting is the unpredictable weather and losing out on usage time because of it. Stef Summers asked for the cost of the rental. Troy Sposato replied that it depends on the machine but is usually anywhere from $1,500-$2,000 for the week and by the month is a little cheaper. Chairman Cobb asked Troy if he had the excavator would he foresee being able to do any of the drainage jobs. Troy Sposato replied yes, they could start on those projects.

Troy Sposato stated that item 2.7 is the reconfiguration of the salt shed. He stated the current shed is small and only holds enough salt for 1.5 storms. Chairman Cobb asked what kind of building is included in the estimate. Troy Sposato replied it is a clearspan building. John Patton asked what size. Troy Sposato replied 100x100x36. Chairman Cobb asked to clarify that we have only run out of salt once in the last ten years. Troy Sposato replied that if they were to get a bad ice storm and the salt company couldn’t deliver they would run out. Chairman Cobb asked how they arrived at the estimated cost. Troy Sposato replied that Carl had come up with it. Chairman Cobb stated that he believed that after many years the STEAP money from Turnpike Road has been made available. Selectwoman Wiecenski replied they were granted the money but have yet to finalize anything with DOT, she received an email just this week stating they are still working on it. Chairman Cobb asked if they have requested for the money to be assigned to any particular project. Selectwoman Wiecenski replied yes, the underground tank replacement and the salt shed. Chairman Cobb asked for the dollar amount of the funds. Selectwoman Wiecenski replied $346,965.54. Chairman Cobb asked if they would then have the $100,000 they allocated for the fuel tank
to add to that number. Selectwoman Wiecenski replied yes. John Patton suggested to Troy that they do some soil testing at the site before getting started on anything else.

Troy Sposato stated item 2.8 is to replace the 2007 F-450 small dump truck that they use to plow parking lots and. He added that they use this truck year round for various jobs and it is their smaller dump truck also referred to as the mason dump. Christina Mailhos asked who drive this truck. Troy Sposato replied, Jayson. Chairman Cobb asked if Jayson is part of his working crew. Troy Sposato replied that Jayson is his assistant, but he does plow as well. Stef Summers asked if Troy could give a description of the truck’s condition. Troy Sposato responded that the truck is rotting away, has needed motor work this year, along with some other issues.

Item 2.9 is the replacement of the 2007 International dump truck. Troy Sposato stated this is Lou’s truck and his truck would become a spare truck. He added that this would allow them to get rid of the 2000 GMC that is in bad shape. Chairman Cobb asked what other truck is being replaced. Troy Sposato replied none, this request is replacing a truck and the request that went to BOF is to add another truck. Chairman Cobb asked who currently drives the GMC truck. Troy replied Red so this would make it so Red and Lou both get new trucks and Lou’s truck turns into a spare. Selectwoman Wiecenski asked how much money they have put into the GMC this past year. Troy Sposato responded around $15,000 and still needs work.

Item 2.10 is for the replacement of the 2011 Ford F-350. Troy Sposato stated that this request can be removed if they approve the purchase of the Ford Explorer mentioned earlier and his truck could then replace this one.

Item 2.11 is to replace the 2012 International Workstar. Troy Sposato stated that this is out in year three and this is the truck driven by Todd. He added that this is the truck they just recently put $6,000 into. Selectwoman Wiecenski asked if they would replace it with another freightliner. Troy Sposato replied yes. Chairman Cobb asked if there are any consistencies with the truck repairs. Troy Sposato replied that he thinks it was a lack of maintenance before as well as corrosion and wiring issues. He added that they don’t have the computer software to diagnose the issues so they have to be sent out which adds to the cost. Stef Summers asked what this truck is used for. Troy Sposato replied that this is a dump truck used every day in the summer for paving as well as used frequently in the winter. Christina Mailhos asked what year Jeff’s truck is. Troy Sposato replied that it is a 2015. Selectwoman Wiecenski stated Jeff’s truck is the one with the computer system and added that they are not suggesting those computers for other trucks. Troy Sposato agreed and added that Jeff has a lot of problems with the computer system which is designed to run pure salt, if the sand is wet its heavy and doesn’t put out the correct amount. Troy stated that he has ran the truck with the computer system and it was a nightmare with shutting down randomly and when going down a hill you want to put out extra product this makes it difficult.

Item 2.12 is a request for the replacement of Liska Road culverts. Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that Carl had told them last year that he thought this was the most critical of the drainage projects. Chairman Cobb asked how often the culverts around town are inspected. Troy Sposato responded once a year by the state. Chairman Cobb stated that he is concerned about these projects coming up in the future as this one went from no issue at all to urgent. Chairman Cobb asked how many other situations are out there like this one. Troy Sposato replied that there’s probably quite a few. He added that they just got the bridge inspections and most are fair so eventually the bridges and culverts will have to be replaced. Chairman Cobb asked if they were mostly metal corrugated pipe runs. Troy Sposato replied yes. Chairman Cobb
stated that it would be good to know about the drainage problems/project as far ahead as possible. Troy Sposato agreed. Rick Maloney commented that maybe Troy could get them a copy of the bridge report. Troy Sposato responded yes. Chairman Cobb asked Selectwoman Wiecenski if STEAP funds were still available. She replied yes and that they hope there will be some available in this coming fiscal year.

Item 2.13 is for the Schofield Road Drainage. Troy Sposato stated that this has been on the list for a while and this is another project were if they had an excavator they could get started. Christina Mailhos stated that she believed a big issue with this project was where the water was going to go and the engineering for that easement. Troy Sposato responded yes and added that there are still a lot of spots on it they could fix and can divert water off people’s properties. Chairman Cobb asked if the project has been engineered at all in terms of what the scope of the work would be. Troy Sposato replied that he would have to ask Carl. Chairman Cobb asked how they came up with the value if they didn’t know the scope of the work. Troy Sposato replied that the quote was there from Carl. John Patton added that the estimate probably needs updated but that Carl probably has a good idea of where it needs to run.

Item 2.15 is Village Hill Road Drainage Phase I. Chairman Cobb asked Troy, if you had an excavator what would the cost of this project be. Troy Sposato replied that it would be the cost of the catch basins, the pipes, etc. Chairman Cobb asked roughly the cost of these items. Troy Sposato replied about $1,000-$1,500 per basin and the pipe is around $20 per foot which would add up to about $200 for a piece of pipe. Troy added that the cost of the project would depend on things such as whether the road needs paved after etc. John Patton added that there is a lot of rock on that road so you would have to account for back fill materials and the fact that it won’t be pleasant to dig. Troy Sposato mentioned they could do some core samples before beginning the project to get a rough idea. Chairman Cobb asked how long a project like this would take them. Troy Sposato replied depending on the digging conditions they should be able to put a basin or two in per day. Chairman Cobb asked Selectwoman Wiecenski what her thoughts are on the town completing some of the drainage projects. Selectwoman Wiecenski replied if they could save the funds and actually get some work done on them she thinks it’s worth investing in. She added that they heard a lot of concern last year about these projects that have been lingering and if they can do something to move the process along it is worth it. Chairman Cobb asked if they could rent an excavator to use as a trial to see if they can complete these projects. Troy Sposato replied absolutely. Selectwoman Wiecenski asked for the rental costs. Troy Sposato replied that he had put in a request for the rental for $7,500 but it’s around $3,000 for a month. Christina Mailhos asked when they would plan to do this project. Troy Sposato replied that it would probably be in August. John Patton asked how many guys work for him now. Troy Sposato replied four full time, two transfer station employees and Matt that just works Mondays and Tuesdays. Chairman Cobb asked if the transfer station employees come in to plow. Troy Sposato replied yes. John Patton asked Troy if he has done drainage, piping, and paving. Troy Sposato replied yes.

Chairman Cobb asked Superintendent Stevens if he had anything for them under present to speak. Superintendent Stevens stated that he gave the board members a copy of the minutes from an October Board of Finance meeting because there was some questions in the email regarding pricing of a new school. He stated he has seen a variety of cost per household and thought it was important to highlight what he and Donna had developed and the exact numbers they used to get there. Superintendent Stevens stated the minutes show the exact numbers they used to calculate their findings and the bond payment paper is from the company that they used. He added that the sheet includes the rates and the prices.
Superintendent Stevens stated he also wanted to clarify the reimbursement rate which will be again updated in October 2020. John Patton stated that he sees the reimbursement rate is 55% and asked where the 23 million on the chart came from. Superintendent Stevens replied that when they updated the quote on the two options the board looked into which were a school with an auditorium and one without that number is the cost to the town after reimbursement. He added that the project would start at 45 million and the cost to the town would be 23 million or 21 million. John Patton stated that if the reimbursement rate was 55.71% he would think the cost to the town would be less than 23 million. Superintendent Stevens clarified that not everything is reimbursable. Superintendent Stevens stated when they were presented with the cost they were told they may be able to build a school for less than this number because the cost per square foot that the architect used was on the higher side. Superintendent Stevens stated that the roof reimbursement rate is a little higher than it was last year. He added that he had confirmed Rick’s findings, that if you are there for five years you will pay back significantly less after that amount. John Patton asked to confirm they could do a 30 year bond. Superintendent Stevens stated yes, that is what they are in for. Rick Maloney asked if Superintendent Stevens could run them through the $500,000 savings that is mentioned in the minutes. Superintendent Stevens replied yes, the large portion of that $500,000 is positional, and the one position he’s always mentioned is the elimination of a principal which is automatically over $100,000 savings. He added that the $500,000 is a minimum savings and that they expect it to be more. Superintendent Stevens stated when they are trying to come up with the exact costs they will have to identify the exact amount of savings. Superintendent Stevens stated that he thinks the first job of a building committee would be to go back through the Friar report and look at the studies that the Board of Education did, figure out what land is out there and see if they can do this without spending any money. Then they will be able to tell us if they recommend going in the same direction. Geoff Prusak asked how big of a building these numbers were based on. Superintendent Stevens replied about 60,000 square feet. Christina Mailhos asked what happens tomorrow night if one of the questions doesn’t pass. Superintendent Stevens replied it depends on which question for example if the first question about forming a committee doesn’t pass it goes back to the Board of Education to determine if there’s a different action they would like to recommend moving forward, but if number one passes then number two can come back to another town meeting in the future when you are ready to complete them. He added that the third question about him applying for the grants, which at some point they need, and it must come through the legislative body of the town. Christina Mailhos added that people need to understand that every step along the way has to go to a town meeting. Rick Maloney stated that he thought question number five about a building project was premature and that they could ask that at any point along the way. Superintendent Stevens stated he believes that was Christina’s point. These are the questions DAS suggested we ask. Mike Makuch stated that the only critical path question is regarding the formation of a building committee. Superintendent Stevens stated after that it’s what can you do as a committee without dollars being spent, which he believes is quite a bit. He added that he has looked at around 80 properties around town and done significant research that the board can go through. Christina Mailhos asked to confirm that if the town votes yes on the three questions, that wouldn’t exclude them from getting the reimbursement on the roof project. Superintendent Stevens said they are applying and wherever it falls it falls. Rick Maloney stated that even if they are going to build a new school it will take more than five years. Rick also asked if they are still moving forward with the patching. Superintendent Stevens stated yes. Selectwoman Wiecenski mentioned that she heard, when E.O. Smith planned on doing their roof project in the summer they were told they cannot utilize the building at all during this time. Mike Makuch stated it was discussed at a meeting the other night with two critical issues within the
project where they don’t want anyone in the building. He stated one is because of crane work and the other was because they are also installing solar panels which is a much more complicated job including wiring. Rick Maloney asked if the roof was more than 25 years old as this affected the reimbursement. John Patton stated he believed it was done in 1998 or 1999. Chairman Cobb stated they would have to verify that.

4. Review of Ongoing Projects

Chairman Cobb stated that next week we will hear from the fire department as well as the recreation department. He added that something for either Mike or Donna would be in the next few weeks any money being spent from the capital reserve for trucks, boilers, etc. may affect balances so if they can be prepared to speak on those items.

Chairman Cobb asked Troy if Public Works were to pick a drainage project which would they go after. Troy Sposato replied that he would have to get back to him on that after he talks to Carl to see if there are any sets of plans for them. Chairman Cobb stated the second part of his question is what his cost estimates would be.

Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that they have one more meeting to hear projects and then two meetings to discuss. She added that they had February 19th as a snow day but believes they will need that meeting to continue discussing the projects. Chairman Cobb stated that the snow day will probably turn into a regular meeting.

Stef Summers asked which public works trucks shouldn’t be pushed out. Troy Sposato replied the Ford F-450 and the International.

Peter Tanaka moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:16PM. Mike Makuch seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted:
Catharine Holcroft
Recording Secretary