

## BROOKLINE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

### Meeting Minutes October 28, 2009

Attendees: Alan Rosenberg, Chair  
Ben Cargill  
Tad Putney  
Ann Somers  
Janice Tremblay

Chair Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. Department heads were invited to attend and discuss their submissions for Capital Improvement Projects for the March 2010 town meeting.

Police Chief Goulden provided insight into the request for a new cruiser to replace Cruiser One which currently has 100,000+ miles and is experiencing transmission problems. His concerns include increased maintenance costs on this vehicle and a need for the department to provide dependable service to the town and its citizens. In addition, there is always a concern for the safety of his officers when an unreliable vehicle is pressed into service. This vehicle was voted down in March, 2009. Chief Goulden is concerned that a repeat of that vote would result in a serious situation in 2011 as other vehicles are scheduled to be replaced.

Fire Chief Corey furnished information on the request for a Kawasaki UTV Mule, a used unit that would be purchased for \$8900, with \$2000 of that being offset by donations. The unit will be invaluable for making rescues from wooded areas. Chief Corey is also requesting that \$100,000 be put into a Capital Reserve Fund to begin planning for the future purchase of a replacement fire engine. This replacement of Engine 3 or 4 will be requested in a couple of years. There is growing concern about parts availability and increased maintenance costs. The third request from Chief Corey is for a light duty utility truck. This would be used for hauling light equipment as well as for providing transportation for on-duty fire personnel.

Gerry Farwell explained the anticipated project behind the request for \$60,000 for Paving Funds. Work will continue on North Mason Road to the Ben Farnsworth Road culvert. Completion is estimated at another 1 to 1-1/2 years. He is also beginning to plan for paving Hood Road, starting at the Milford line and working backward. This would be a 5-year project. General discussion involved the upcoming need for repairs to the Bond Street bridge. The sidewalk walls are showing signs of age. The town will need plans within the next two years with an estimated cost of \$2000.

Ambulance Director Wes Whittier discussed the recommendation to begin depositing \$60,000 per year for three years, beginning in 2012 into a Capital Equipment Replacement Fund (CERF). This will provide funds for the next anticipated purchase of an ambulance. This process was successful in the purchase of a new ambulance last year, as more than half of the money was already in the fund. Currently, he is requesting funding to replace the 1999 SUV, which has mileage close to 100,000. He is currently facing a \$2500 repair bill to keep the unit on the road. Two options are available: replace with a used vehicle (2006 or 2007 model year) for no more than \$10,000; or replace with a 2010 Ford Escape Hybrid from Hillsboro Ford for a quoted price of \$17,964. In a follow-up discussion, the CIC decided it would be prudent to request funds for the used vehicle, but appreciated the information provided by Wes Whittier to make a sound decision.

Tad Putney provided additional information on projects pending from the Selectmen. The town will begin pursuing money beginning January 2010 with an anticipated answer by September 2010 for the proposed Police addition to the Safety Complex. The Video Surveillance system for Town Hall carries a price tag of \$20,000 and will be requested in 2010. The security extends to more than the area currently occupied by

the Police Department. It was also noted by Ann Somers that our liability insurance company advised that installation is critical for protection of the town buildings and personnel and to avoid increased insurance costs.

Additional Sidewalks could be worked on if we can obtain grant money. This would require a 20% match from Brookline. \$25,000 would come from the Road Agent's account; the balance would be \$64,400 from a warrant article.

The land purchase on Main Street will be brought to the voters at the March 2010 town meeting. We have three years to exercise the option, but discussions, planning and ultimate approval may take more than just one year. It was the consensus of the committee that it should be brought forward each year.

Chair Rosenberg will prepare an updated 5-year plan to be forwarded to the Planning Board.

The minutes from September 30, 2009 were reviewed and revised as follows:

Item 7 - Security System at Town Hall was rated as Necessary

Item 8 - Sidewalks (recommended by the Board of Selectmen) was rated Desirable.

The revised list reads as follows:

1. Police Department - Cruiser - Necessary
2. Fire Department - MULE - Desirable
3. Capital Reserve Fund - Necessary
4. Ambulance Service - SUV - Necessary
5. Highway Department - Rebuild North Mason Road to Pavement - Necessary/Desirable
6. Land Purchase - Desirable
7. Security System at Town Hall - Necessary
8. Sidewalks - Desirable

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM

Submitted by Janice Tremblay, Secretary