



TOWN OF PAXTON
Capital Improvements Planning Committee
697 Pleasant Street
Paxton, MA 01612

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, October 23rd, 2019

Joint Meeting with the Finance Committee

Present: Jeff Kent (Chairman)
Forrest Smith (Vice Chairman)
Kateri Clute
Timothy Grinham
Mark Love
Robert Pelczarski
Carol Riches

Absent: None

Additional: Peter Bogren (PB), Mike Pingitore (MP), Jay Conte (JC), Neil Bagdis (NB)

1. FINCOM Chairman Rich Fenton (RF) opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. RF gave an overview of the financial situation, stating that “we are looking at a new DPW Building, major expenses with paving project (\$200K), and Town Common pedestrian safety/new sidewalks”. JK added “Collins Group identified 88 Capital Projects totaling \$27.8M over the next 6 years”.

2. MP discussed the Command Car (Assistant Chief/Emergency Management Director) Replacement.

a. The key discussion points were:

- (1) The vehicle was received in 2011 through a donation to the PFD; originally it was the Chief’s vehicle.
- (2) It’s a 2007 Chevy Tahoe with over 100K miles; the frame is damaged beyond repair (rust) and rear control arms failed, and was inspected and unrepairable deemed by Paxton Garage. FS confirmed Paxton Garage’s assessment.
- (3) MP is on call 24/7; he stores his gear and equipment in the vehicle, and he responds directly to the scene (vice to the Public Safety Bldg.).
- (4) The vehicle is also used for professional development training, conferences, etc.; and sometime used by other department personnel if available. It is used as a Command Car and not for personal use.
- (5) The PFD budgeted for lights & upgrades (\$2.5K), and will utilize commo package and lights from the Tahoe.

b. Procurement & Financing Discussion:

- (1) MP: we looked at buying a used vehicle with low mileage and warranty; we received a quote from CMG for a 2019 Chevy Tahoe for about \$37K Quote from CMG (~\$36K)
- (2) ML raised the question of making an arrangement w/leasing company, which would allow us to rotate a vehicle every couple of years. CR responded that in order to replace the vehicle immediately, the Town can’t do a municipal lease, because it would require Town Meeting approval; it was proposed but not supported by BoS.
- (3) RF: FINCOM voted to pull the necessary funding out of the reserve account to fund the expenditure. ML: why the reserve account, and not another account such as the Capital Depreciation Fund, because it will zero out the reserve fund balance. CR: we’ll replenish with the stabilization fund, as we can do it quickly thru the STM warrant article to raise and appropriate.
- (4) NB: Inquired why not a Ford Explorer, because it is the same price, 2019 is cheaper than the 2020, and you can get a 3-year lease. JC responded that they identified the one we want and stressed that

if you buy a used vehicle it will have no warranty.

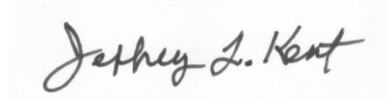
3. MP and JC discussed Ladder 1 Repair. The key discussion points were:

- a. The BoS sponsored the STM Warrant Article in the amount of \$56K thru raise & appropriate; it includes the transportation costs to the KMW factory in PA.
- b. PG: this was not the “right way to go” and doesn’t think the repairs will work. During the July inspection, the KME Rep said the will issue a 90 Day Warranty, and will repair Ladder 1 and make it roadworthy. KME has a reasonable expectation for 3-5 years extended useful life, but won’t put that in writing”. There is no political will to buy a new Quint Ladder, and made comment regarding CIPC Chairman campaigning against it at the Annual Town Election.
- c. JC doesn’t agree with making the repairs (“This is not what my Department Personnel want, I have to sell it to them); MP agrees with making the repairs and wants to get Ladder 1 back in service as soon as possible.
- d. CR doesn’t agree with making the repairs; she sought town counsel advice regarding warranty and the legal opinion is that there is no case to make a warranty claim.
- e. A question asked but not answered; two years ago, there was an ATM Article in the amount of \$100K for the same type of repairs, but the article was withdrawn at the last minute, so what’s changed since then?
- f. NB: there are a lot of used platforms out there that will meet our needs and cost us a lot less, so why don’t we investigate this further? JC: you buy used, you buy other towns problems. NB: not true, or else there would not be all these businesses that deal in used fire apparatus, give us your specs and we can help you find something. JC: no, I don’t trust you, you are a liar and thief.

4. At this point the meeting quickly disintegrated. Attendees made announcements JC’s comments was an inappropriate and uncalled for. JK requested a motion to recommend to the BoS to transfer \$56K from the Capital Depreciation Fund to offset the repair costs for Ladder 1. Motion by ML, 2nd by RP; Approved: JK, FS, ML, TG, RP, KC; Disapproved: CR.

5. FINCOM RF and CIPC JK requested a motion to adjourn meeting; motion so moved and meeting concluded at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted by



Jeffrey L. Kent
Chairman