

CIP Meeting  
October 6, 2011

PRESENT: Tom Cottrill (Planning Board Chair), Peter Stanley (Planning and Zoning Administrator), Jim Wheeler (Budget Committee Chair), John Wilson (Budget Committee), Michele Holton (Planning Board), Paul Gorman (Planning Board), Dave Seastrand (Police Chief), Bob Brown (Conservation Commission Chair), Richard Lee (Public Works Director)

Chair Cottrill called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and said that there would be three departments presenting: Police, Conservation and Public Works

Police Department- Chief David Seastrand

Chief Seastrand said he only had one line item in the CIP that consisted of four vehicles. They are still following along with their replacement schedule. He noted that they had tried to get more life out of a car in the recent past and kept a cruiser for four years instead of three. This did not work out so well, as they had to pay several thousand in repair costs in addition to having to get by without the vehicle when it was being serviced. They have gone back to a three-year replacement on the cruisers, six years for the SUV, and 10 years on the investigation vehicle. They are not asking for a car this year, but will for fiscal year 2014.

Chief Seastrand said that it was difficult to know what the actual numbers would be for the replacement, as Ford is no longer making the Crown Victoria. They hope to be able to transfer their equipment to the new Ford model, which will be something like a Taurus. When the vehicle comes out the following year, he will have the numbers for the new car and will know if the equipment will actually be able to transfer over.

Chair Cottrill asked about the Karbon police interceptor he had heard about. Mr. Wilson said that he heard they were very expensive but are supposed to have a longer life expectancy. Chief Seastrand was not familiar with this vehicle.

Mr. Wilson asked why the State went with Dodge Chargers. Chief Seastrand said that they got a deal from the manufacturer. He added that towns can purchase vehicles under the State's bid. Some other towns have the Chargers as well.

Chair Cottrill asked if the annual mileage of the fleet had gone up over the last several years. Chief Seastrand said that the mileage has stayed pretty much the same.

Chair Cottrill identified cruiser #2 as being replaced in 2011, but it was on the list as a 2007 model. This should be changed on the table. Chief Seastrand said the 2006 sedan was the one they kept until 2010. They went through two transmissions and experienced electrical problems to the tune of over \$5,000 during the last year they had the vehicle. He noted that they don't have a garage to house the vehicles, which might help keep them in better shape.

There was some discussion on rust on vehicles, including the fire department apparatus. Mr. Stanley said that the bodies don't rust out, but it is the electrical parts, seals, nuts and bolts, that are affected by the salt and rust.

Chair Cottrill asked what the average life expectancy was for other cruisers in other towns. Chief Seastrand said it was 100,000 miles. The State said that they had some cruisers that were going up to 130,000 miles per year. He called and found that those were cruisers that had been handed

down to trainees. Their front line cars are cycled out at 100,000 miles. They start to experience more and more breakdowns after that point.

Mr. Wheeler asked how much they use the investigation vehicle (van) and what its viability was as an additional vehicle. Chief Seastrand said they track how much it is used and record the mileage. They want to make it last for 10 years. It isn't ever going to be a frontline vehicle, but is intended to carry equipment to crime scenes. They have used it for employees going to training also. Often, it is parked but felt that the necessity of having it was there. They could not pack all of the equipment they need into their control vehicles. It saves a lot of time and money to have it. They also use it for surveillance. It currently has 36-38,000 miles on it.

Mr. Wheeler asked what they sold the 2006 cruiser for. Chief Seastrand said they got less than \$3,000 for it. Mr. Wheeler noted that the money received for the trade-in went back into their CIP fund.

Chief Seastrand said that the pertinent car dealerships get a quantity of new cars in anticipation for Town Meeting time. This past year he could only find one dealership that could get them a car. Now, the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee will know what he wants when the time comes. Chair Cottrill asked if they take delivery of a new car right after Town meeting or if they try to use up the older car for another several months, then take delivery of the new car as late in the year as possible, thus possibly stretching the use of each car unless it was already to the point where the car is costing too much for repairs. Chief Seastrand cautioned that they would still need to get the car to Massachusetts to transfer all of the equipment from the old vehicle to the new one.

#### Conservation Commission – Bob Brown

Mr. Brown said he'd like to talk about the following items:

1. The Reserve Fund, which presently has \$426,936 which does not include the \$10,000 that was voted in at Town Meeting.

Mr. Brown said they get comments about the amount in the fund and some people feel that the Conservation Commission is not doing anything with the money. He wanted to explain that if they were not aware, the Conservation Commission (CC) has been working very hard on creating a desirable lands list. They have taken the parcels from the master plan and have consolidated that with the Colby Sawyer Natural Resource Inventory and have selected 15 properties that were the most important. They sent letters to these people and explained why their land was important and gave them possible options for conservation. They have had four people contact them as a result of the letters and there have been some preliminary discussions. There is nothing on the edge of happening with these parcels, but it was a good result. Another property they have been talking about is some property on Otter Pond. Some of the land is in Sunapee and some is in New London. Both towns would participate in the purchase, should it go through. He wanted them to know that they were working on things.

Chair Cottrill recalled a few years back when the Town had contributed quite a bit of money for the fund to "beef it up" and become a viable contender in purchasing property. He wondered what would happen if several pieces on their list came up for sale, what would be their course of action. Mr. Brown said that it would depend on the parcels and what other parties would be able to contribute to their purchase. Mr. Stanley said that some properties may be attained through conservation easements. They cannot currently pay into a project that is initiated or controlled by

another agent, such as Ausbon-Sargent. The law to change this did not pass at Town Meeting the previous year. The potential for conservation is there in these situations and if the law is passed, they can meet their goal. They will always have to involve grant money and a group of players when purchasing a large piece.

Mr. Wheeler said that the money in the account is best used as leverage, and if they can use some of those funds to work with joint efforts it would make the money go further. He felt that if someone is truly interested in having the CC purchase the land, it is a noble and moral thing and the owners will not just turn around and put it on the market. He thought \$500,000 was a good limit to the fund.

## 2. RSA 36: a

Mr. Brown said they did attempt to have RSA 36: a pass last year, but that did not happen. They want to try a new approach this year. He asked for the CIP committee to give the time and patience to understand what the RSA is to get their approval. If they still did not understand or approve of the RSA, he would like to explain why at a future PB meeting. Mr. Brown said that they would like to say that the Budget Committee, the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen are behind the RSA passing so that they can all be on the same page. He added that the CC decided not to go forward with trying to get the portion of the RSA passed, which deals with lands outside of the borders of the town. Many towns have passed the RSA, but only half have passed the out of town portion.

This RSA would allow a contribution that the town could not have a fiduciary interest in. Someone who spoke against the RSA last year at Town Meeting and later said that he didn't understand the RSA. After it was explained further, the person is now on board with the proposed RSA. It doesn't change the approval process and still has to be received by the CC, approved by the Board of Selectmen and then go to Town Meeting for a vote. It just expands what the money in the fund can be used for.

Right now, the town has to own the land, but this change would allow the town to contribute to others to purchase the land and then they would grant an easement of the land to the town. Mr. Stanley said that lots of opportunities come up where there is land available to conserve through an easement.

Mr. Wheeler said that there is a perception that once the town starts contributing to the funding of a non-profit, other funding ceases. Mr. Stanley said that in his experience (ASPLT) the people understand that it is necessary to collect enough funding for long-term maintenance of the easements, and operating expenses. They receive a lot of funding beyond what they need for specific projects. Under this statute, the CC becomes one of the contributing members of the project. Mr. Wheeler thought that when a dedicated fundraising project was happening, people would stop funding privately. Mr. Stanley said that it is the opposite. Once people see there is a concentrated effort, it inspires them to give.

Mr. Wilson asked why they were discussing this if it wasn't in the report. Mr. Stanley said it was because they have discussed it in the past and he felt it should be a line item. Mr. Wilson agreed. Chair Cottrill asked if they should consider budgeting an amount to the fund this year, in light of the goal being to have the fund at \$500k. Mr. Brown said that at their last meeting they talked about this and they realized there are sacrifices being made all around. As much as they'd love to put in another \$50,000 or \$10,000, this year would be a good one to take a breather and work on the RSA change. They are counting on some support from the Budget Committee, the Planning

Board and the Board of Selectmen on the RSA issue. Chair Cottrill offered to have Mr. Brown come to give the Planning Board a presentation on the RSA.

To summarize, Mr. Brown stated that they would be asking for no money this year, but would like to get the RSA change passed.

Public Works Department-Richard Lee, Director

Mr. Lee said that Table 7 listed the equipment for wastewater. The plan is OK the way it is set up and he'd like to stay with it. He'd also like to add an additional line for Lagoon clean-up. They have talked about it for the last 8-9 years. The old treatment plant had six settling lagoons, three of which haven't been filled in yet. These three have hot (contaminated) sludge in the bottom that is high in phosphorus. The lagoons are only a couple hundred feet from Lyon Brook and could pose a problem if there was leakage.

Mr. Stanley said that they have started a capital reserve but it could be six figures by the time they are done with the project, considering engineering and other costs. Mr. Lee said that the sludge either has to be sucked out or have the water pumped out and be dug out. Or, they could cover them and seed them and then would have to monitor them with monitoring wells. Mr. Stanley said that they need a plan and an approval before they can do anything. Mr. Lee said that the original plan they submitted to DES years ago was not approved because they were told they needed an engineering plan. They are not being told that this has to be done at this point.

Mr. Lee suggested having something put in the CIP to pay for a resolution. When enough money was put into the fund to do the engineering, they could have a warrant article to draw the money out to pay for it. Then they could keep saving until there is enough to do the work. There is a little over \$11,000 in the fund currently. It was felt that this was a serious problem that needed to be remedied, as it could have serious ramifications should the lagoons leak into Lyon Brook and find its way into Keyser Lake. Mr. Stanley noted that under 10 mcg/liter is the maximum amount of phosphorus allowed to enter a lake. The water that was tested showed a contaminant of 1600 mcg/liter.

Mr. Stanley said that as a citizen of the town, he felt that they would be insane not to put \$10,000/year into this fund to take care of the problem. Mr. Lee agreed. Chair Cottrill asked how much it would be for engineering plans. Mr. Lee thought it would be about \$20,000 - \$30,000. He said that even though they have already tested what is in the lagoons, the state engineers will want to test it all themselves again. Chair Cottrill thought perhaps \$20,000 could be put in the fund to get it up to the \$30,000 for engineering to get that part done. Ms. Holton thought that this issue was more worthy to spend money on than upgrades to the beaches. A lawsuit could come before the town again should the lagoons leak, costing much more than what it would to fix the problem. Mr. Stanley said the town owns the land. There are lagoons like this all around the state, but New London is bringing it up because there was a problem with them in the past. Chair Cottrill thought that perhaps they had pushed their luck and that once they are aware of this and the risk, they need to do something about it. Everyone agreed.

Mr. Stanley asked if anything was coming up in 2022 as the table didn't go out the full 20 years. Mr. Lee said that in 2022 the Jobs Creek Road man-hole blow-off valves would need to be replaced, as would the valves.

Mr. Lee said that they would not be getting the grant that was noted in the table for 2011. This was for the main pump station electrical work. There are no State funds available for that project. New London did apply for the funding, but did not receive any.

With regard to the 3-Bay Garage on the list, Mr. Lee said that they could put up a 2-bay garage instead. They are always looking for storage space.

Chair Cottrill asked how many miles were currently on the truck. Mr. Lee thought it had almost at 30,000 miles and was due to be replaced in fiscal year 2015/2016.

#### Tables 9 & 10 Highway Equipment

Mr. Lee said that the 2001 dump truck should be changed to a 2011. That new dump truck is in Concord currently getting worked on and he believed that they'd receive it by end of October of the first part of November. The price is going to be about \$145,000 which is less than they thought.

Mr. Lee thought they should leave the 2013 replacement at \$164,000 due to more emission regulations that may be required.

Mr. Lee said that they have extended the one-tons to seven years. The consequence of doing this is, for example, that the one-ton at the transfer station doesn't dump any more. The sub-frame is rusted and gone. They use it to carry things around but can't dump with it. It would be over \$6,000 to get a new body but was determined by both Mr. Lee and the Board of Selectmen that it wasn't worth putting that much money into the truck.

Mr. Lee referred to a memo he sent out regarding the 2003 and 2004 trash trailers. They have had to have some work done to them costing over \$3,000. They are not due to be replaced until 2019 and 2020 but may need to move up on the list to be replaced. He would like to have another year to look at them before he decides this. The trailers are between \$68,000 and \$70,000 to purchase.

When asked how Single Stream recycling would change the trash collection at the transfer station, Mr. Lee thought it would cut down on the time it takes people to sort their recycling and deposit their trash. There would be just one place for all recycled materials and one place for trash. People would be in and out more quickly.

Mr. Stanley asked Mr. Lee about the 2010 dump truck to be replaced in 2022. He asked for a figure. Mr. Lee said to take the 2011 figure (\$145,000) and increased it by 7% each year.

Mr. Cottrill felt that it would be a good idea to re-visit the numbers for these kinds of items every few years. This would avoid accumulating a surplus or having shortfalls.

Mr. Lee noted that the grader is going to be repaired and has not been done yet. They will do it between the fall and winter seasons. These repairs will extend the life of the grader out to 30 years. Half of the money for the refurbishment was put in for this year and half will be for next year. It is in his regular equipment budget.

Mr. Wheeler asked if Mr. Lee still wanted to purchase portable stop lights. Mr. Lee said they were necessary. They have to pay people to flag when they work on projects. He would rather pay his workers to do projects instead of flagging.

#### Table 11 – Highway Buildings

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Mr. Lee said he would like to leave this fund the way it is. It is drafty in the old highway garage and there are exposed wires where there shouldn't be. Inside the walls is a formaldehyde foam insulation that became illegal just four months after it was installed. It has disintegrated into a dust.

In 2014 they want to replace the salt shed, as the building is aging and timbers in the ground are rotting. It would be a "clear span" design which is an aluminum structure with a plastic-like cover that has a warranty for 20 years.

Mr. Stanley asked if anything else would be coming up after 2018. Mr. Lee didn't see anything big coming up that wasn't a regular budget or a maintenance issue.

Table 19 – Gravel Roads Paving

Mr. Lee thought they should be putting money into paving the gravel roads. It was not funded last year. Mr. Wheeler said that the Planning Board recommended not funding it last year. Mr. Cottrill asked Mr. Lee if he could recalculate the paving costs, as it was last calculated in 2007. Mr. Lee said he could randomly pick a few and adjust the percentage of the other figures accordingly.

Table 21 - Sidewalks

Mr. Lee said he would like to keep this plan the same. Starting at the end of October they would be going out for bid for engineering work for the Elkins project. They have appropriated money to be spent on this this year. Construction will not occur until the summer of 2013.

Mr. Wheeler said that the total cost to town for the Elkins project was about \$120,000. The sidewalk account will be depleted and will need to be refunded.

Mr. Lee said he wouldn't recommend building any new sidewalks, but that from Seamans Road to Ms. Cleveland's house was in bad shape. Some of the sidewalks on Main Street need to be resurfaced. Once the Elkins project is done they can look at what else needs to be done.

Table 23 - Bridge Repair (Public Works)

Mr. Lee said that the fund has \$113,026 in it. Last winter they experienced some ice dams on Brookside Drive. Six culverts flowing through Lyon Brook got jammed. Upon inspected after the jams were freed, it was noted that the bottoms of the culverts were rusting out. Mr. Lee said that because there are three culverts in each location the State will declare it a "bridge" and will help with 80% of the funds to put a new bridge in. They will be looking at between \$200,000 and \$400,000 on either side of the road to put bridges in. So in total, it would be between \$400,000 and \$800,000 to keep that road open. The State Bridge Aid Fund will give 80% and funds are extended now until 2019.

It was noted that a line item is needed for each bridge and should be added in the capital improvement plan. Mr. Lee would find out the following week if he could get this project into the bridge aid fund. They will send someone out to look at the project and determine approximately how much it would be. Chair Cottrill said they shouldn't put a line item in until Mr. Lee can come up with a number.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary  
Town of New London

