

Town of Cornwall Capital Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes, January 4, 2018

Those present: Sue Johnson, Mary Conlon, Ben Wood, Jake Chapline, Denny Rheame

Also present: Norman Grenier

Sue Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:55 p.m. Ben Wood/Mary Conlon moved to approve the agenda.

Denny Rheame and Norman Grenier reported on the fire department's plans to purchase a new engine to replace Engine 2. They explained that Engine 2 is a 1982 model and is worn out. The fire department will try to sell it but doesn't expect to get much for it. They are planning to buy a new engine from HME, Inc. in Wyoming, Michigan. Denny Rheame said that the engine represents the state of the art, with a stainless steel body and a compressed air foam system (CAFS) for fire suppression. He said the engine should serve the town for 20 years. It is already included in the capital budget for 2018-2019 at an anticipated cost of \$450,000. Denny said the current estimate is \$452,000, and a price increase of up to \$20,000 could occur in the future. He noted it would take about six months for the engine to be built after it is ordered.

Ben Wood asked if the price could be reduced by doing without any of the features included in the current estimate. Denny answered that it could be purchased without the CAFS, which would result in some savings, but he didn't know how much.

The committee reviewed the current capital equipment spreadsheet and confirmed that the engine can be purchased in the next fiscal year without requiring an increase in the budget.

Denny also reported that he is continuing to investigate the possibility of building a 100-foot-tall radio tower at the Route 30 fire station. He noted that the Fire Department and the Highway Department are now relying on an antenna that is mounted on a telephone pole and is only 45 feet high, which is well below treetop level, and there are a number of locations in town where it is impossible to get a signal. He said he is currently engaged in getting permits for the tower. The cost would be about \$9,000 for the tower itself, plus the cost of excavating and pouring the concrete foundation,

The Fire Department is also investigating the possibility of placing a repeater on a new tower that the Town of Middlebury is planning to build on Chipman Hill, which would eliminate the need for a tower in Cornwall. However, Middlebury has not yet confirmed that space on the tower will be available, so Denny plans to get permits just in case.

Sue Johnson reported that \$74,000 of the bank loan approved for the renovation of the town office building is still available, and a final bill of \$26,000 for that project is still to be paid. Ben Wood/Mary Conlon moved that \$30,000 should be drawn from the loan so that bill can be paid.

After reviewing the cash-flow spread sheets for the Capital Building Fund and the Capital Equipment Fund, the committee confirmed that anticipated expenses for the next fiscal year can be met without increasing the town's capital budget. Consequently, the committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Select Board that the building-fund budget remain at \$100,000 and the equipment-fund budget remain at \$130,000.

Sue Johnson said that she is advertising a public hearing on the proposed 2018-2019 capital budget for Monday, January 23, at 7 p.m. in the town office.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.