

Town of Cornwall Capital Committee Meeting Minutes, April 4, 2019

Those present: Sue Johnson, Stu Johnson, Magna Dodge, Mary Conlon, Ben Wood, Jake Chapline, Dave Berno

Sue Johnson called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Items on the agenda were:

- Discuss purchase of roadside mower for highway department
- Update from the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department on purchase and building needs
- Discuss moving up the schedule for painting the town hall building
- Discuss schedule for replacing the highway department's sand/salt building

At the previous meeting of the Capital Committee on January 31, 2019, highway department foreman Mike Sunderland had recommended the immediate purchase of a new roadside mower. The new mower is already included in the equipment budget and funds have been saved for its purchase (estimated at about \$50,000). It had originally been scheduled for replacement in 2015. Sue reported that she has received multiple bids for the mower, but she is hesitant to proceed with the purchase because Mike will be leaving his position at the end of June, and his replacement should be able to weigh in on the purchase of a major piece of equipment. The committee agreed and voted to table the purchase for the time being.

David Berno, the new chief of the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department, told the committee that his department is currently reviewing its upcoming equipment needs. He said there are no immediate plans to replace the utility truck, which is already included in the budget, and that the planned replacement of Engine 1 will not happen this year and possibly not for several years. He said that the amount currently budgeted for the Engine 1 replacement (\$450,000) should be sufficient, but he will provide an update on the cost at the next Capital Committee meeting. Engine 3 is still scheduled for replacement in 2023, he added.

Dave suggested that the capital fund should include money for restaining the fire station every five years. It has just been restained at a cost of \$5,700, so Dave thought \$6,000 would be a good estimate to include in the budget for the next time it needs to be done. He also reported that the fire department is investigating putting solar panels on the West Cornwall station and will conduct a cost analysis.

Sue said she is concerned about the condition of the paint on the exterior of the town office building. It is currently scheduled to be repainted in fiscal year 2020-21, and the town has reserved \$30,000 in the capital budget for that purpose. Since the money is available and the work needs to be done, Sue recommended moving it up to the current fiscal year. Ben Wood volunteered to put out requests for quotes to local contractors.

The committee discussed the highway department's sand and salt shed, which has some foundation problems. Sue noted that it is currently scheduled for replacement in 2020-21, and so far \$50,000 has been saved for that purpose. Stu Johnson pointed out that \$120,000 has been

budgeted, but the actual cost of a new hoop-framed building will likely be in the neighborhood of \$160,000.

Stu noted that budget projections include a number of improvements for the town garage property, and it is difficult to separate them. In addition, he said, the site has serious limitations, including an inadequate septic system and lack of room for expansion. Besides the new sand/salt shed, projected improvements include an addition to the garage building, which is not large enough to house the town's current equipment; a new ADA-compliant bathroom; and a new holding tank or wastewater disposal system. He suggested that the committee should visit the property to get a better sense of the situation.

Ben Wood suggested that the committee should get an engineering assessment of the current site with future needs in mind before replacing the sand/salt shed. It might make sense to consider putting a new building in a different location.

The committee agreed that a site visit should be scheduled and any action on the town garage projects should be tabled until the town has a new highway department foreman.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.