

Shutesbury Capital Planning Committee Meeting

January 31, 2021, 5:30 PM

Members present: Ellen McKay, Ajay Khashu, Bob Groves, Steve Sullivan

Members absent: Michael Broad

Guests: Becky Torres, Walter Tibbets (Fire Dept), Tim Hunting (Highway Dept)

Minutes from 1/17/22 meeting approved.

Next meeting 3/2/22 at 5:30 PM

Discussion of Highway Department request:

- Highway Dept. is requesting to replace their 2003 Sterling Dump Truck.
- Parts are getting harder to find as Sterling stopped making trucks in 2008. The department has resorted to fabricating parts to make repairs.
- The truck body is experiencing significant rust. The major components of the chasis are in good shape.
- Parts are expensive and difficult to locate. Truck will be too expensive to maintain.
- Tim received several quotes from dealers.
- Typically we bid the chassis and body separately.
- Bid for Western Star truck is \$180K. Tim received another bid for a Mack truck that came in at \$160K.
- Bid for stainless steel body-plowhitch-towhitch is \$140K (MHQ)
- Bids include emergency lights
- BG states that it is very difficult to purchase a truck in this environment. He asks if we just purchased a body now could we use it for now with our Sterling truck and install it on a new chassis down the road. Tim responds that this could be an option. Tim also stated that the body could be reconditioned.
- AK asks what the Sterling truck might bring us if we auctioned it off. Tim offered to ask around to see what the ballpark auction value is.
- BG asks if he thought the truck would hold up for one more winter if we wanted to delay the purchase for a year. Tim explains that there are significant lead times anyway if we were to purchase a new truck. Most likely it will need to be used for another winter season regardless.

Discussion of Fire Department request:

- Dept is requesting a new SUV to be used by the next Fire Chief. This will replace the present Ford Explorer. This vehicle was inherited from the Shutesbury Police dept.
- The truck is having major rust issues.
- There are some other mechanical issues: transmission, Roll Stability Control warning light

- A crude sheet metal patch had to be made to get the vehicle to pass inspection in late September. Walter does not believe it will pass inspection when it is due next year.
- A \$50,000.00 purchase price was determined by State bid contract and a \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00 allotment for lighting and radio installation. Expected life would be 12 - 15 years.
- BG asks if there is another vehicle that the future chief could use. The fire dept has always inherited a vehicle from other departments including police. Walter states that there is no suitable replacement vehicle on hand. The Police Dept is requesting a new cruiser. Walter states that the sedan that would be replaced is not suitable for the types of calls the department needs to respond to during the winter.

Discussion of Potential Elementary School Requests:

- BG states that the school roof should be the priority and that some of the other recommended projects should wait until the roof is replaced.
- BG also recommends that the school submit a capital request for engineering the new school roof.
- Building committee is going to develop a timeline for needed capital improvements.

Next Meeting will be March 2, 2022, at 5:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned: 6:58 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Ajay Khashu