

**TOWN OF ENFIELD
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE**

MEETING MINUTES OF November 4, 2020

Present: Ryan Aylesworth (Town Manager), Keith Thomas, Ed McLaughlin, Holly West, Eric Crate, Sam Eaton, Dan Kiley

Absent: Sam Eaton

Guests: Roy Holland (Police Chief), Richard Martin (Ambulance Chief), Fred Cummings (Fire Chief)

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.

Mr. Aylesworth carried out the “preamble” for virtual meetings as prescribed by the Office of the Governor. Roll call attendance was then conducted.

The first order of business was review and approval of the October 20 draft meeting minutes. Motion made by Mr. Kiley to approve the minutes as printed. Motion seconded by Mr. Crate. During discussion Ms. West requested that the minutes be revised to include reference to the discussion that was had regarding the need for DPW personnel to be adequately trained in the operation of the mechanic’s bay exhaust extraction system. Ms. West said that training would be imperative to ensure personnel knew how the system is properly used so as to avoid health risks. Mr. Crate also suggested that the minutes be amended to reflect the fact that construction of a new public safety facility was just a recommendation of the Municipal Facilities Advisory Committee at this juncture. Motion to approve as amended made by Mr. Kiley. Seconded by Mr. Create. Roll call vote conducted and minutes approved unanimously (5-0).

The next order of business was review of the equipment/project requests submitted by each of the Town’s public safety department for inclusion in the 2021-2026 CIP Plan.

Chief Holland went first. Chief Holland explained that the Police Department is looking to replace the black, unmarked, police cruiser. This vehicle went into service in 2013 and would have approximately 140,000 miles on it at the time of replacement. The Department would replace this cruiser with a hybrid, just as it did with its lone cruiser replacement in 2020. Hybrids have become standard in the industry, and the Enfield Police Department has had very favorable experience with the hybrid it put into service this year. Unlike the unmarked cruiser that is being replaced, the new cruiser will be fully equipped like all the other fully functional marked cruisers. Mr. Crate inquired if the Police Department was considering manufacturers other than Ford. Chief Holland explained that the Department does review the options, but, has found that the base cost of Dodge vehicles is higher, as well as data that shows higher maintenance costs. Additionally, vehicle operators that are physically smaller have reported issues with visibility due to the configuration of the dash and steering wheel.

Chief Holland than proceeded to walk the CIP Committee through the proposed cruiser replacement cycle for the five years following 2021 (2022-2026).

Mr. McLaughlin inquired about the Department's current approach with respect to de-escalation techniques. Chief Holland explained that officers carry Tasers that are to be used as a non-deadly alternative to a firearm, and members of the Department also receive ongoing training in verbal de-escalation techniques to increase the likelihood that a situation would arise where the use of a weapon was necessary to protect human life. Officers of the Department do not carry pepper spray. Tasers are currently being replaced through the new equipment account in the Department's operating budget as opposed to through the CIP.

Chief Holland reminded the CIP Committee that the police station's front entrance was reconstructed in 2020 using a combination of funding from the CIP Capital Reserve Fund and a federal grant. Chief Holland also offered the opinion that, should the new public safety facility recommended by the Municipal Facilities Advisory Committee not come to fruition, it will be necessary to replace the furnace in the police station within the next 3-5 years.

Chief Martin presented next. He explained that the only item being requested for inclusion in the 2021-2026 CIP Plan is a new ambulance in 2022. The Town's current ambulance went into service in 2008 and would be 14 years old at the time of replacement. It is an F450 with rear-wheel drive. Although the current ambulance had experienced chronic breakdown issues, those issues were finally completely resolved approximately two years ago. Chief Martin proposing replacing the current ambulance with another F450, but with more mission-critical accessories. Proposed accessories include a power loader. The ambulance's radio system will also need to be upgraded. Approximate cost will be \$200,000 and Chief Martin will be pursuing additional quotes to ensure competitive pricing. Chief Martin reports that the ambulance call volume in 2020 is roughly on track with 2019 calls for service and the expectation is that demand will remain consistent or rise.

Chief Cummings was the last to present. He explained that in 2021 the Fire Department is looking to replace six SCBAs (air packs). Additionally, the Department believes it is essential to replace the failing oil furnace in the Union Street fire station with a propane furnace that is considerably more reliable and efficient.

Mr. McLaughlin urged Chief Cummings to collaborate with Jim Taylor, Public Works Director, to ensure that any new furnace system was properly specked.

Chief Cummings went on to describe the Department's need to replace Engine 4. Engine 4, which is presently the backup engine in the Union Street fire station, is over 31 years old. Chief Cummings informed the Committee that the Town will again apply for funding to replace the engine via the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He has received four vendor bids that run from \$550,000 to approximately \$600,000. Chief Cummings believes that if the Town's second attempt at obtaining grant funding to replace Engine 4 is unsuccessful then it will be necessary to move forward with replacing the engine using Town funds due to the critical importance of a new engine. Discussion ensued about the Department's present use of its three engines and where these apparatus are garaged. It was suggested that Engine 3 (the newest engine, which is currently garaged in the Enfield Center satellite fire station) could be moved to Union Street station and Engine 5 (2001) could be moved to the Enfield Center satellite station based on relative call volumes fielded by both stations. Mr. McLaughlin expressed the opinion that public feedback should be solicited with respect to perception of apparatus need as well as where the fire engines are garaged moving forward.

Chief Cummings went on to discuss the proposed replacement of Car 1, which is a 2003 F250 that is having some mechanical issues as well as increasing rust/corrosion on the body. This vehicle will also need a new radio.

The Committee inquired about the status of any plans to replace the rubber membrane roof of the Union Street fire station and Chief Cummings indicated that he still needed to prepare a request form for that project as well. Ms. West strongly encouraged the Chief to consider the merits of replacing the existing flat, rubber-membrane roof with a peaked roof. It was agreed that Jim Taylor in his capacity as Public Works Director should be consulted on this as well.

The next meeting of the CIP Committee was scheduled for November 12 (Thursday) beginning at 7:00 PM via Zoom. The focus of that meeting will be a comprehensive review and discussion of the items requested by municipal departments for inclusion in the CIP Plan 2021-2026.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.