



Town of Mendon

Capital Planning Committee

Mendon Town Hall
20 Main St.
Mendon, MA 01756

Members

Matthew O'Brien
Henry Marshall
Christopher Burke
Norman Round
Jay Byer

Capital Planning Committee Meeting – September 24, 2019, 7:30 pm.

Members Present – Matt O'Brien, Christopher Burke, Jay Byer, Henry Marshall (phone-in)

Others Present – Fire Chief Bill Kessler

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30 by Matt O'Brien
2. Motion to approve minutes from March 28, 2019 by Jay Byer, second by Matt O'Brien, passed by majority. Chris Burke abstained because he was not a member of the committee last March.
3. Elect officers for the upcoming year. Chris Burke moved, second by Matt O'Brien to appoint Jay Byer as Chair, passed unanimously. Jay Byer moved, second by Chris Burke, to appoint Henry Marshall as secretary, passed unanimously.
4. Review and discuss capital requests.
 - a. Highway Department – The Highway Department is requesting a trackless snowblower. The committee feels it is hard to determine where this falls in priority without knowing all town needs. This is equipment that is needed, but the committee feels all large capital requests should be presented to the voters at the Annual Town Meeting, not at a Special Town Meeting. It is understood that it is needed before the next Annual Town Meeting. Currently the Board of Selectmen considering whether to place this on the upcoming Special Town Meeting in November, but at this time the Capital Planning Committee will not make a recommendation.
5. Fire Department – Fire Chief Bill Kessler was in attendance. The ambulance purchase approved at last May's Annual Town Meeting is on the way, to be delivered between the end of December and early February. The Fire Department needs a new pumper truck to replace engine 4, which is a 1993 chassis. The estimated cost is around \$600K and can be financed over several years. This need is imminent. There are sometimes used ones available, but the procurement process usually means that they are sold before the town can approve that kind of purchase. The Chief would encourage a regional cost-share approach, but towns must agree on a shared approach. Other needs are a Cardiac Monitor (\$8K), some additional gear, E-Hydraulic tools, and soon will be looking for a new combo pumper/rescue truck. The Fire Station needs some upgrades to accommodate the needs of the fire-fighters. Chief Kessler provided a prioritized list of the most pressing needs (attached). The committee feels they still need to understand all town needs before being able to recommend where this falls in the total town's needs.
6. Any items not reasonably anticipated 48 hours – the committee discussed their responsibilities and the need to meet regularly to develop a full capital needs list. Part of that is understanding what the charge of the committee is and having some additional information so they can develop an approach to meet that charge. Jay will ask Kim Newman for any previous Capital Plans presented to the BoS in the last ten years, a copy of the Master Plan that has been referenced in previous BoS meetings, the balance in the following accounts: CapEx, Stabilization,



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Free Cash, and all Special Accounts approved and appropriated to in the last five years. We would also like the specific charge of the Capital Planning Committee, what the town has determined is the threshold for capital expenditures that should be considered by the committee, and what the town has determined should be annual appropriations to any accounts for the purpose of capital expenditures, like the Ambulance Reserve or CapEx accounts. At the next meeting the committee will review all information provided and develop a game plan to move forward.

7. Set the next meeting date – October 17, 2019, November 7, 2019, and November 26, 2019 all at 7:15. Jay will have all three posted.
8. Adjourn – Matt moved, Chris second, to adjourn at 8:50.

Shelf projects for when funding is available
(priority order with estimated cost)

1 – Thermal Imaging Camera with charger \$8,000

Thermal imaging cameras allow us to perform quicker searches for possible victims, checking “behind” walls for hidden fires, and seeing fluid levels in drums. Our current cameras are older models (2001) and technology has changed much over time. This unit is a front line unit, and will be on our first due engine. A separate project lower on the priority list at this time will allow for the purchase of smaller, non-NFPA compliant cameras to try and get a camera with each crew. The camera to be purchased will be NFPA compliant.

2 – Battery powered extrication tools \$35,000

Current hydraulic tools at times cannot cut thru the layered rolled Boron metal now used for car posts to keep the roof from collapsing during a rollover. In addition, the hydraulic tools require an umbilical cord to a power unit, requiring more space on apparatus and less flexibility on scene. The battery powered tools are stronger and more portable, allowing for quicker and more efficient extrications. These tools can be powered by a generator if a prolonged extrication uses up the batteries (including spares).

3 – Task Force Tips Blitzfire monitor \$3,000

Our best chance to extinguish a fire is putting lots of water on it very quickly. A monitor allows delivery of up to 500 gallons per minute, 3 times a regular handline. This monitor is easily deployable with one person, and can be left unattended and not move. We are a small department with only two on duty most of the time, so putting as much water on the fire as we can with limited manpower is essential.

4 – One MSA 4-gas meters \$1,400

Used to monitor for potentially dangerous air (propane/natural gas, carbon monoxide, low oxygen environment). Current meters are older and sensors are failing. The cost of replacing sensors on these older models is close to the cost of newer, up to date meters. Department had 5 operating meters, one recently removed from service as it could not be calibrated, and two removed for failing sensors. We have two left, one on each engine. Appropriate number for us is two, one for each engine. **Note:** One was purchased at the end of FY 2019.

5 – Automatic CPR machine \$15,000

Automatic CPR machines are utilized to provide constant and effective compressions to a patient in cardiac arrest. This frees up the EMS personnel to establish IVs for medication administration, airways for supplemental oxygen, and allow for continued compressions while moving the patient. The Lucas 2 has been the standard, however other manufacturers are bringing units to the market. We’ve heard pricing as low as the \$12,000 range for these newer units, but we have not seen the machines and are unsure of quality. Best to plan on the \$15,000 range and adjust from there.

6 – Forestry floating pump \$3,500

Used to access smaller water sources for brush fires, such as small streams and ponds when in more remote areas. This pump can be carried to the water source by one person, and can easily feed two separate forestry lines.

7 – EMS ballistic protection \$9,000

This would provide three sets of vest and helmet for EMS personnel. While we hope these would never have to be pressed into use, the reality is we now know it is possible. These would be used as added protection for EMS in a warm zone for immediate patient care and removal to cold zone.

8 – Small Thermal Imaging Cameras (3) \$4,500

These cameras would be used to outfit additional crews with thermal imaging capabilities at a lower cost than an NFPA compliant camera. These would not be used as the primary camera, but will allow for more coverage during overhaul operations.