

**TOWN OF GRANBY
CAPITAL PROGRAM PRIORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 17, 2019**

PRESENT: Gordon Bischoff, Chairman; Jenny Emery, Mark Fiorentino, Sally King, William Kennedy, John Adams, and Mark Neumann

Ex-officio Members: John Ward, Town Manager and Michael B. Guarco, Board of Finance Chairman

OTHER PRESENT: Kirk Severance, Director of Public Works and Shannon Sullivan, BOE Director of Facilities

Chairman Bischoff confirmed a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 20, 2018

The Committee reviewed the minutes of December 20, 2018.

On a **MOTION** by J. Adams, seconded by W. Kennedy, the Committee voted unanimously (7-0-0) to approve the meeting minutes of December 20, 2018 as presented.

REVIEW OF ECONOMIC MODEL - UPDATED

Town Manager Ward reviewed the four Finance Models provided. He did comparisons, noted annual growth to the Grand List, and noted the updated numbers are based on the 2018 Audit. He went on to review the impact of borrowing \$5M once and twice, talked about the interest rate, and noted how this could affect the mill rate. Possible upcoming pension obligations are not addressed in the model. Expenditures were reviewed. G. Bischoff noted an increase over the next few years that isn't necessarily for capital projects. The operating budget drives the increase. Review mill rates going forward and consider projects that drive up operating costs. When money is borrowed, there is a time limit as to when it needs to be used by for the project. There was discussion on the mill rate and how an increase impacts people differently.

Town Manager Ward thanked Barbarajean Scibelli, Administration Finance Officer, for her work preparing the models.

PRESENTATION OF PRIORITY PROJECTS/DISCUSSION

Town Manager Ward provided a handout of most recent Budget estimates for the projects. He reviewed the bridge projects and noted the town has been notified that the Moosehorn Bridge has been rejected by LOTCIP for the 10/90 funding, but is eligible for Federal Bridge money which is reimbursed at the rate of 20/80. Simsbury and Donahue Bridges are also reimbursable at the 20/80 rate. The feds will pay for the design and engineering costs for Moosehorn, Simsbury, and Donahue Bridges. The new cost to the town for the six bridges is now \$4,867,750. The town is waiting for a letter from the state to confirm these changes. Regarding Enders bridge, it was asked if maybe the two bridges there (one is really a culvert) could be gotten rid of and reposition the road, eliminating the need for bridge work. Mr. Bischoff stated he feels that the bridge projects should be number one on the list of projects.

On a **MOTION** by W. Kennedy, seconded by S. King, the board reviewed that CPPAC accept that five bridges need to be replaced, and that approval for funding, by borrowing money, be voted on at a referendum.

Before the motion was voted on, discussion ensued about have one or two referendums regarding bond issues and how this could be best addressed. M. Fiorentino thought that all projects should be identified first, before discussing a referendum. Identify the high priority projects and determine the cost. M. Fiorentino stated he feels the High School Facility upgrades have more priority than the solar project. Town Manager Ward feels the bridges should be number one on the list, followed by roads and Holcomb Farm – this from the towns' side. He would like to discuss the roads with the Board of Selectmen and he would like to see if funding for some of the Holcomb Farm project could be found elsewhere. Regarding the communications item, it isn't ready for tonight. The state may have input on this, and it's a wait and see matter. K. Severance, Director of Public Works provided a handout of information on the roads. If the road work has to wait a year or two, that may be acceptable.

J. Emery stated the High School upgrades are their number one priority, followed by the solar project, generator, roofs, HVAC, and the other items on their list. It was stated that the turf replacement and the stadium track can wait, possibly another five years. Although funding up front is needed for the solar project, the payback should be rather quick, making it, as BOE members say, a non-issue. There were questions as to how quickly the payback will come. They feel the roof work and HVAC installations are top items. M. Fiorentino stated the solar project has a specific timeline, stated by Eversource, in order to go forward. The BOE has already invested a lot of time and some money into this project. A consultant's fee is to be paid now, and the BOE wants to make a good decision as to paying out more money towards this project at this time.

There was extended discussion on prioritizing projects, cost, and the impact on the budget and mill rate. There was talk about delaying some of the high school projects for a period of time and doing just the ones that are absolutely necessary at this time.

M. Guarco stated he feels there is a risk if there was a referendum for the bridges, combined with other items. The public might vote it down if the dollar amount is too high; leaving the town without the funds to do the bridge work. From the towns' side, it's more practical to go out to bond once, instead of twice.

The information gained through discussions tonight should be shared with the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, and Board of Education.

M. Fiorentino shared that there is a BOE Finance sub-committee meeting scheduled for January 23rd regarding the solar project, which is open to the public.

The above motion was not voted on.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bischoff scheduled the next meeting for Thursday, January 31, 2019, 7:00 p.m., at the Police Department Community Room.

ON A **MOTION** by G. Bischoff, seconded by M. Fiorentino, the Committee voted unanimously (7-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Christian
Acting Recording Secretary