

Budget Committee Review of Warrant Articles 1/15/24 **Approved**

Donna Duclos called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm. Present: Donna Duclos, Dana Swenson, Mark Cowdrey, Greg Stetson, Kayla Chandler, Aimee Herling, Jess Rand, Jim Reed, Elita Reed, Joe Mahoney, Scott Hilliard. From the Capital Improvement Program: Jim Hersey, Doug Phelps, Greg S.

Minutes from the School Board public hearing will be reviewed at a later date.

The Capital Improvement Program Committee (aka CIP) explained its rationale: Items had to be \$20,000 or more, with a lifetime of at least 5 years. There are 11 warrant recommendations.

1. The FD needs to purchase 2 trucks with a total final of \$1,729,000. This year they require \$75K, adding \$5K a year up to \$100K, and a bond for \$239K
2. The FD needs \$12,500K to add to existing reserve of \$39,576K to purchase Air Packs in 2030.
3. The PD needs a new design for the police station to be attached to the fire station at additional 2,000 square feet for final cost of \$400K. This is a new reserve, money needed for the design.
4. Every 2 years the PD will buy a new cruiser at \$52K, with \$42,942 in reserve and funding needed this year at \$26K. This means there will be 3 in service and 1 for detail work.
5. The town hall renovation needs information.
6. The transfer station has \$52,775 in reserve, needs \$10K this year. Need information; check grants and ARPA. Discussion followed: new flow pattern, new recycling building design, pads under “roll-offs”, work with Wilmot on recycling?
7. The Cilleyville Bridge project needs more information, abutments an issue.
8. The Forest Fire Department needs a forestry truck, to purchase in 2035 at \$120K, needs \$10K this year to add to reserve of \$5,060.
9. The FFD needs a side-by-side ATV at \$20K to purchase in 2039, needs \$2,000 this year.
10. The EMS needs \$300K to purchase an ambulance in 2040, they need \$10K this year to add to \$1,398 in existing reserve. In 2028 they will re-evaluate contract with Franklin.
11. The HD has \$218,500 in reserve, needs \$25K this year to possibly replace grader. Discussion followed re: replacement or repair. New HD person is heavy equipment mechanic, with a long-term perspective. Is grader fund to be used solely for grader? What about ditcher at \$14K? Reserve often gets raided for small road repair projects, eating away at larger amount needed for full road paving.

The meeting continued with Scott's presentation of the town warrant articles and ensuing discussion. See Scott's explanations and lists.

The meeting concluded with Jim Reed's motion to add \$86K (approx.) to the School District operating budget for the addition of another teacher to AEMS. The vote was unanimous. The intent of the additional teacher was to “deal” with the current 2nd grade class as it moves through AEMS.