

Town of Somers
CIP Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:02p.m. by Chairman Tom Mazolli. Also present were David Pinney, Tim Potrikus, James Mcfeat, Ed Pagani, Gary Schiessl, Shirley Warner, Kathleen Devlin, Marcia Mitchell, Joan Formeister, Joe Tolisano and Greg Simmons. Mr. Tolisano, Mrs. Devlin and Mrs. Mitchell left the meeting at 6:25p.m.

II. OPENING REMARKS

Chairman Mazolli stated that he would like to schedule additional CIP Committee meetings to discuss the process that we have been following for allocations and recommendations to the Board of Finance.

III. EVALUATE CIP PROJECT REQUESTS

Mr. Potrikus reviewed the requests submitted by the Board of Education. The computer replacement for \$65,000 is the usual annual request. The additional computer equipment request for \$35,000 is for other computer peripherals. The digital sound field for \$16,000 will replace units they are currently renting. Mrs. Warner asked if this is the same item that was in last year's request and subsequently moved to the operating budget. Mr. Potrikus said these funds are for additional classrooms that have the same issues with hearing-impaired equipment. The carpet tile replacement for \$15,600 was not funded in the prior year's request and is being requested again.

Mr. Pagani reviewed the requests submitted by the Fire Department. The server for the reverse 911 system for \$7,500 is on borrowed time, a replacement systems would be good for 10 to 12 years. Mr. Mazolli asked for clarification, is this the 911 system or the reverse 911. Mr. Pagani indicated this is the reverse 911 system. The replacement hose for \$4,500 is needed because the department currently has none on hand. In the event of a fire with weather like we are having now, the possibility of losing several hoses is great, this will enable the department to replace two hose lines when they are damaged.

Mr. Cafarelli reviewed the request submitted by the Department of public works as follows: road sweeper for \$150,000; roadside mower for \$60,000; articulating highway roller for \$20,000; and roll-off containers for \$6,000. Mr. Cafarelli indicated that the town is changing the replacement schedule for dump trucks to a 15-year cycle of replacement instead of the current 10-year cycle.

Mr. Pinney reviewed the requests submitted by the Recreation Commission as follows: skateboard park for \$100,000. Some discussion occurred regarding the on-going efforts to raise funds in the community to support this project. Mr. Pinney indicated that if approved, any funds raised so far would go

toward additional equipment and these funds would be used for the construction of the park on Field Road; fencing for \$52,000; lights for multi-purpose field for \$25,000. Mr. Potrikus asked why there were no operating costs included in this request. Mrs. Formeister stated that these costs were calculated in the past and were not significant amounts of money; life trail systems for \$46,041; and baseball field clay for \$10,000. Some discussion followed regarding the request for clay. The committee feels this should be an operating expense and questioned the cost of the request seems excessive and would easily cover all the fields in the town.

Mr. Pinney reviewed the requests submitted by the Selectmen. The GIS database request for \$15,000 would be used as a basis to provide current maps for the Assessor, Land Use and Public Works. This would ease the process of review for subdivisions, maintenance, drainage and flood information and road conditions and could be used both internally and externally. The town is well outside the norm when compared to other municipalities with GIS. The computer/technology request for \$10,000 and the sidewalk request for \$25,000 are the usual annual requests. Regarding the sidewalk request, if the funds are approved they will either continue on-going maintenance or save the funds for sidewalks on Battle Street leading to Woodcrest. This project would cost at least \$100,000. The police station roof request is for \$7,000. The firehouse gutters request is for \$5,000. Mr. Pagani indicated that they had received updated numbers and that request should be increased to \$9,000.

Mr. Pinney indicated that one item that was not approved last year and should be included in this year's request is a town-wide phone system. Some discussion followed regarding the need for such a system for the Library, Fire Department and Administrative town functions. The committee agreed to include this in the ranking process.

IV. OTHER

There was no other business.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Potrikus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gregory Simmons
Recording Secretary