

**City of Montpelier
Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Committee
November 9, 2016**

Subject to review and approval

Present: Tom McArdle (Director of Public Works), Bill Fraser (City Manager), Todd Provencher (Finance Director), John Hollar (Mayor), Justin Turcotte (City Council member), Dona Bate (City Council member), Kurt Motyka (DPW), Zach Blodgett (DPW), Corey Line (DPW), Jessie Baker (Assistant City Manager).

Call the meeting to order: The meeting was called to order by Tom McArdle.

Approve the agenda: A motion was made to adjust the agenda to reflect the corrected date on # 3 to approve the minutes from May 27, 2016. There was a second and the motion carried on a unanimous vote.

FY18 Review of projects, schedules and funding: Tom reported that there are a few projects that are still a work in progress due to some loose ends, but they should be further along with questions answered and more certainty by the next CIP meeting on November 30.

a:) Review of street maintenance and rehabilitation updated plan

There are two street paving additions to the planned project list – a section Towne Hill rd and Governor Davis. The revised approach for Hill Street paving together with favorable prices this season freed up some funds to add these two streets in 2017.

Updated PCI values are not being presented at this time because we are working with a new software program for the assessments. The software comes with default service life values yielding results that staff doesn't have confidence in yet. Updated assessments are due next year and as actual condition data is entered, the software will be more reflective of regional reality and forecasting. At this time, the overall PCI is in the 67-68 range with the steady state target achievable provided funding remains as projected including award of Class 2 paving grants.

Gallison Hill is being rehabilitated (reclaiming) from Route 2 to the Civic Center as part of the bike path project.

Harrison Ave is also on the 2017 project list which is being coordinated with a water & sewer main project and will include sidewalk reconstruction – utility work to be performed by in-house staff.

The Towne Hill Road project is being coordinated with a sidewalk extension between Grandview Terrace & Greenock Ave.

Justin asked that the list of projects and expenditures being presented as a spread sheet typically used for the CIP program.

b:) Review of Montpelier in Motion

There is a lot going on with Montpelier in Motion especially the Route 12 project and sidewalk safety. A list and breakdown of projects and events was prepared by Corey & distributed which will rely on CIP & Parking Funds for alternative transportation.

c:) Review of sidewalk reconstruction/resurface plan

This is mostly happening downtown and the goal is for the summer of 2017 construction with the work to be performed by the paving contractor hired by VTrans for the State St / Rte 12 paving project. Staff has scheduled a status meeting with VTrans and more information will be provided on the 30th.

d:) Review of storm drain and culvert work

There is still a problem with a culvert at the former Crossway Saab location on Rte 302 (River St) with work planned for this fall. This project is a public / private partnership to address a culvert and stream channel. An Ecosystem Restoration Grant was applied for in September to look at the stream channel erosion issues.

There is currently no money specifically identified for stormwater quality projects at this time although planning for these projects is underway – the Northfield project is one such example. It is anticipated that the City will rely heavily on grant funding for implementation and the Legislative agenda indicates this will be taken up in the next session. The Better Roads grant program is likely to be the primary source of grant funding with little work anticipated until that happens.

e:) Review of building and grounds request

FY 18 includes significant funding for buildings. The pedestrian walkway (access road) at the pool is on the project list as well as the rec facility for a feasibility study, heating and ventilation study at the police department, and an electronic door system upgrade at the police department. Lost Nation Theater (City Hall auditorium) needs some ceiling repairs, air conditioning improvements, and energy audits should be done for the building. Kim Bent, LNT addressed the committee acknowledging the need for the identified projects while also making known the availability of Cultural Facilities Grant from the VT Arts Council which will need a commitment local matching funds.

f:) Northfield Street reconstruction

A complete reconstruction of the street is planned including replacement of the water and sewer service lines up to the right of way. Partial funding will come from the State's clean water revolving loan fund program which has already been used to secure preliminary engineering design funding at a negative interest rate with a subsidy. They are low interest loans. The 4.2 million dollar project estimate is a very preliminary estimate and the City Council will be considering approval of the final design engineering services contract at their meeting tonight. The CIP general fund will be hit for 1.2 million for road related items and the rest will be funded through the water sewer accounts. These expenditures will be developed as bond requests at town meeting.

The state is paving the street, but they won't contribute to the concrete removal which the City will have to pay for – the underlying concrete is the primary cause for premature surface distress. Staff will try to return on the 30th with some updated preliminary cost estimates and a breakdown of debt payments in the CIP plan.

Council members mentioned a lack of knowledge or recollection about the project and expressed some concern about the costs. Bill explained the water & sewer master plan identifies the project with funding projections and the CIP plan allows for the additional debt. The project will also be used to address bicycle needs and improve sidewalks which are identified in MIM.

g:) WRRF Upgrade (including biogas to energy opportunity)

A preliminary engineering report is being developed to modernize the facility and improve phosphorus management. Although this project will be funded through the sewer account, it is a significant and costly project of interest and will necessitate borrowing with a possible bond article in March.

Relatedly, the Energy Committee asked DPW to look into a possible energy savings / energy production known as Fats, Oils & Greases project (FOG) which would turn these waste and byproducts into a useable energy producing fuel. While there is great potential, there is likely to be a huge initial outlay of funding needed in the vicinity of \$20 million but with a "guaranteed" return on investment. DPW just saw one presentation and is engaged with a private sector consultant to explore this further, with much more vetting needing to be done before serious consideration. This discussion is meant to make the CIP committee aware of this matter.

h:) Bridges – status of maintenance needs & Cummings Street project

Tom is still trying to get some information on the status of the Rialto Bridge reconstruction from the state with no answer received to date.

The Cummings St bridge project update was also provided with a projected start date of fall, 2017 (construction of temporary detour bridge) and the reconstruction planned in 2018. However, there is a ROW issue that must be addressed before the project can be advanced.

i:) City owned street light LED conversion (possible revenue bond funding)

Tom explained the project as a wiring upgrade and conversion (replacement & retrofits) to energy efficient LED fixtures. The conversion analysis was conducted by a consultant through a grant awarded by Efficiency VT. Most of the city owned lights are located downtown the others on the bike path, Stone Cutter's Way and bridges. E-VT developed a financing spreadsheet to demonstrate how the \$200k + project could be funded through anticipated energy and repair savings. It was recommended that a revenue bond could be pursued to undertake this project.

Other business: There was no other business.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tami Furry
Recording Secretary
With edits / additions by T McArdle