

TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

5:30 P.M. Tuesday
October 9, 2012

MINUTES

Present: Vice Chairman Leslie Lewis, Leandra MacDonald, Susan Stanbury, Roland Patten, James Kelly, Sue Chollet and Alan Zeller.

Also Present: Carol Ogilvie, Director, and Laura Norton, Administrative Assistant, Office of Community Development.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Welcome and Opening Comments:

Vice Chair Lewis welcomed everyone “to the first meeting of the 2012 version of the CIP.” She went on to introduce new member Alan Zeller. She noted that former Chairman Leo Smith would no longer be involved with the Committee as he has taken a full time job with the Town “so I will chair this meeting at least” she said.

Election of New Officers:

Vice Chair Lewis noted the next item on the agenda was the election of officers. “The Chairman’s job is open” she said. Almost at the same time Mr. Patten, Ms. MacDonald and Ms. Chollet looked at Ms. Lewis and said “you would make a good Chair.” A motion was made/seconded (Patten/Chollet) to elect Leslie Lewis the Chairman of the 2012 CIP Committee with all in favor.

With that done the Vice Chairman position became available. “How about Alan?” asked Ms. Chollet. Mr. Zeller replied “well as long as it doesn’t require any heavy lifting I can do that.” A motion was made/seconded (Chollet/Lewis) to elect Alan Zeller the Vice Chairman of the 2012 CIP Committee with all in favor.

Setting Meeting Schedule:

The members discussed the best time for meeting and agreed Tuesdays seemed to work best. All agreed there was not going to be a single meeting where someone did not have a conflict. The meeting time was set for 5:30 p.m. The member also discussed the November 6, 2012 date which coincided with Election Day. After some further discussion they decided to go ahead and meet as scheduled that day.

Review Status of Current CIP:

Ms. Ogilvie distributed a spreadshee of the status of the FY 13 CIP. As she did so she noted “there were only three changes, all in all you did pretty good.” Chair Lewis asked “what is the

scuttlebutt in the Administration Office? Ms. Ogilvie replied “You know, I have not yet heard a thing.”

Ms. Chollet asked about the status of some of the larger projects with Ms. Ogilvie giving a brief update on the Main Street Bridge (2016), The Union Street Bridge (proceeding as planned) and the repaving of Union Street. Ms. Ogilvie also noted some equipment and paving requests for DPW “but no large items from the Fire Department this year.”

Mr. Zeller asked for clarification on the Main Street Bridge. Chair Lewis explained the original “refurb” was an 80/20 proposition by the State DOT “the money (\$165,000.00) in the account is our 20%” she said. It was further clarified that the whole project stalled when the engineers determined the bridge would require a complete replacement. A brief discussion about the Main Street Bridge followed. Mr. Zeller noted that when the time came he would actively advocate “a bridge that looks like the one we have now” but would not involve the millions of dollars involved to save the original structure. He went to note “some people would like to tell you that without that bridge looking like it does, people will not come to Peterborough.”

Chair Lewis suggested the members wait for DPW Director Rodney Bartlett to come in for his CIP session. “He can give us a recap on the history of the project and where it is going” she said. She added “he is very eloquent, and interesting to listen to. I think it is fascinating.” Mr. Patten interjected “well, it is frustrating to say the least.” Ms. Stanbury asked “wasn’t that about three years ago?” Chair Lewis replied “yes, and about the same time the bottom fell out of the feds’ budget.”

The members moved on to a brief discussion about the Transcript Bridge. Without much definitively planned for that bridge at this time Mr. Zeller noted “it is like kicking a can down the road.”

Mr. Patten mentioned the vehicle capital reserve (specifically for DPW and the Recreation Department). He reviewed the problem with the recreation bus noting it was bought by the Isabelle Miller grant program “but now the town pays for the upkeep.” It was noted the Miller grant process is used to start new programs in town but does not maintain them. He noted there was a revolving fund for pay programs that goes to the replacement of the bus, as well as the vehicle operations (i.e. paying the bus driver and fuel costs). He added “the bus we have is going on ten years old with nearly 111,000 miles on it with maintenance issues.” He added “we’ll need to replace it or add a second bus to share the load. It runs all summer long, almost non-stop.” Chair Lewis noted “it does not have to come down to the town to subsidize the purchase of a new bus.” A brief discussion about the intent of the grant and the ensuing cost of operations and maintenance of things purchased with that money followed. Mr. Patten also noted the number of highway trucks in disrepair and the fact that DPW would be looking to spend money to fix them up so that they last longer. He noted that the Recreation Department vehicles “come from the Highway Department” adding “so we inherit those problems.” A brief discussion followed with Mr. Patten noting “this is the bugaboo you run into when you take a used truck from another department.”

Chair Lewis asked about the number of trucks at the Highway Department. Mr. Patten replied “it is something Gordon Kemp calls *fleet creep* or when you purchase a new vehicle and keep the old one.” Ms. Stanbury asked if the members had seen a fleet management plan with Ms. Ogilvie replying “yes, it is somewhere in your binder.”

Ms. MacDonald asked about the town pool bond. Chair Lewis note the bond repayment “starts this year.” Mr. Patten noted an in-town company won the bid “nice to see that” he said.

In closing Chair Lewis asked Ms. Ogilvie about the status of finding her replacement. Ms. Ogilvie reported nothing new in that department. She added “I gave them a one year notice on my birthday. That was August 7th.” “Kicking the can down the road!” replied Mr. Zeller.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Norton,
Administrative Assistant