

Presentation of 2009-2014 CIP Matrix to the Planning Board
Tim Redmond, CIP Chairman

Report Prepared for August 14, 2008

Introduction:

The role of the CIP Committee is an advisory one. The Committee accepts capital improvement requests from Department Heads, town utility commissions and the school board. All requests are evaluated to ensure Master Plan priorities are met and that the health, safety and welfare needs of the Town are considered and addressed. When considering requests, the Committee attempts to smooth the matrix over the next six years in an attempt to prevent unnecessarily large tax fluctuations.

At this time I would like to thank the members of the Committee for their time and devotion to the process. Other members include Fred Plett; vice chair, Earl Carrel, Fred Cass, Hank Boyle, David Pierce and Board of Selectmen Representative Scott Gross. Special thanks go to staff members Planning and Economic Development Coordinator Steve Griffin and Janice O'Connell, Finance Director.

Last year the Committee recommended and the Planning Board approved CIP appropriations of \$6,294,506. \$750,000 was removed by the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen. The voters approved CIP appropriations of \$5,543,706.

We began this year by comparing the new requests presented to last year's approved bottom line. The Committee noted that it was approximately \$1 million to \$1.3 million more than last year. We began our deliberations knowing that many purchases and projects needed to be moved out on the matrix.

In the end we were not able to achieve that goal and moved around items we deemed lower priorities in the larger picture. This year was particularly difficult in that two town agencies, the Library and Fire Department, made large requests. The Committee decided to leave the land purchase portions in the 2009 requests. They will be addressed later in this report. It should be noted, that but for these two requests, the overall figure recommended by the Committee would have been less than the amount recommended last year.

MATRIX PRESENTATION

Police Department:

The P.D. has stayed the course with replacement vehicles and the motorcycle lease. The other request is for sidearm replacement, which after the Chief's presentation, was left in this year's matrix.

Fire Department:

The F.D. has requested a pick-up truck replacement in addition to funds to purchase land for a future new fire station. The original request included land for the station, money for architectural fees for designing a new station and the cost of the station. The Committee voted to keep the land purchase in 2009, but to move the architectural fees and the building cost in 2010, offset by bond, to allow for voter approval and financial considerations. The CIP Committee also included the second installment deposit into the Capital Reserve Fund hoping the voters will continue to support our proposed savings plan for purchasing much-needed new fire apparatus for the department.

Public Works Department:

DPW has requested several replacement purchases in addition to normal replacement purchases. Normal replacement purchases include one pick-up truck, one small dump with plowing and sanding equipment and one large dump with plowing and sanding equipment. Two large replacement requests were submitted; these being the town's grader and bulldozer. The Committee realized the vital function of the grader as a front line piece of equipment for plowing roads. Whenever the town trucks are unable to plow steep roads such as Mountain Road or Summit Road during extraordinary snow storms, the grader is able to accomplish this and keep roads open for emergency needs. The bulldozer was discussed and moved out two years as part of our process for financial reasons.

Parks & Recreation:

A single request for the Barnard Park playground expansion was left in 2009.

Administration:

A request has been submitted for Town Hall renovation in light of the anticipated vacating of the lower level by the District Court. These renovations will make space available to alleviate the overcrowded conditions on the upper floor. Offsetting funds from the Mildred Stark Fund will be utilized in this project to cover a portion of the costs. A request to fund a GIS flyover was moved to 2011.

Library:

The library Trustees have requested an amount for land purchasing to construct an addition to the existing building. This amount was included in the 2009 request but the request for building funds was moved to 2012, offset by bond, to allow for voter approval and financial considerations.

Conservation Commission:

The current use tax penalty proceeds continue to be allocated to the Conservation Commission. However, their request for a bond for \$2 million was discussed at length and moved to 2014 for financial reasons. Note that the voters did not approve a similar recommended bond last year. The Conservation Commission also requested an additional \$80,000 per year on top of the proceeds from current use penalties, which we zeroed out for financial reasons.

Historic District Commission: No requests for 2009.

Planning and Economic Development: No requests for 2009.

Public Works Capital Projects:

The road plan was left intact as requested, as well as the Westlawn crypt replacement, ongoing sidewalk repairs and drainage projects. The Westlawn Cemetery Expansion design request, for the property across North Mast Street at the ball field, was left in 2009. The construction amount was moved to 2012. The Church Street streetscape project was also moved to 2011 and the second phase of asset management software was moved to 2010. The request for design of North Mast Street and Main Street has been moved to 2011.

Solid Waste:

The request for a barrel replacement program spanning 5 years at a cost of \$50,000 per year has been moved out to begin in 2011.

Off-Setting Revenues: Shown in the matrix.

Sewer Commission, Village Water Precinct, Grasmere Water Precinct:

All of the departments above are user funded and may obtain state monies for their operations. Their reports are in the matrix.

School Department:

The report presented by the School Dept. shows a net decrease of 1.35%. The Committee decided there was no reason to move any school related items. Bond payments are on schedule for GHS and combined bonds (\$7.9 million and \$5 million) will be paid off by 2012. School offsetting revenues are shown on the matrix.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Redmond,
CIP Chairman, 2008