

**TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - TUESDAY EVENING  
FEBRUARY 25, 2020**

PRESENT: Calouro, Sweeney, Teixeira, Parella, and Ley

ALSO PRESENT: Steven Contente, Town Administrator  
Raquel Pellerin, Town Treasurer

The Council met in special session on Tuesday evening, February 25, 2020 in the Town Hall, Council Chambers, beginning at 7:03 o'clock PM, Council Chairman Calouro presiding:

1. Five Year Capital Plan

Sweeney/Parella - Voted unanimously to  
receive and place this matter on file.

Prior to the vote taken, Council Chairman Calouro noted that the process of a five-year capital budget review began in 2014 and has continued annually since that time. He noted that the Town Administrator and Town Treasurer typically present the budget.

Town Treasurer Pellerin distributed three documents to the Council members, these were a.) Summary, b.) Narrative, and c.) Five Year Plan.

Town Treasurer Pellerin explained the contents of document "a."

Council Chairman Calouro questioned the status of the marina expansion with Town Administrator Contente responding that the project is in its permitting stage and that applications have been sent to the State Coastal Resources Management Commission and the Department of Environmental Management. He added that an application was also submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers,

Town Administrator Contente explained that the first element of the project slated for completion are the fuel pumps (one for gasoline and one for diesel fuel) which the Town hopes to have operational by late summer. He also explained that the more-complicated marina expansion will come later.

Councilman Sweeney asked to know if any "roadblocks" have been identified with Town Administrator Contente responding that the approval of the Army Corps of Engineers may be the most complicated since the project will disturb the harbor's floor.

Councilman Teixeira asked to know if the proposed \$3 million listed for the project includes the fuel station with Town Administrator Contente responding that the budget for the project, as outlined, is all inclusive.

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Councilman Ley asked to know if the Town will make fuel available this upcoming season with Town Administrator Contente explaining that this particular detail is Harbormaster Marsili's forte and that he (Harbormaster Marsili) is not present this evening. He added that the permitting portion of the fuel dock is the most difficult part.

Town Administrator Contente also explained that the fuel will be dispensed from a floating pier that will be located on the south side of the State Street Dock.

Director of Community Development Williamson noted that the Town is applying for a grant in support of the "transient components" of the marina project (including the fuel dock). She explained that Town may hear news of its grant application during the month of March, 2020.

Councilwoman Parella asked to know the amount that was applied for in this grant application with Director of Community Development Williamson agreeing to provide that information separately to the Council in an e-mail message.

She added that the grant was nationally competitive.

Councilman Sweeney asked to know if it might be possible to defer work on the Reynolds School roof with Town Administrator Contente explaining that the roof is buckling and pulling away. He added that the roof is not currently leaking but there is a void that is vulnerable to damage.

Town Administrator Contente explained that the Town focused on the repairs to the Byfield School during the past year and will refocus on the Reynolds building now that Byfield is nearly complete. He added that the windows are now being repaired.

Councilman Teixeira asked to know the condition of the Reynolds skylight with Town Administrator Contente responding that the panes are intact and that the skylight is generally in good condition.

Town Treasurer Pellerin provided an overview of the Five Year Capital Plan and explained that the capital projects are determined by the cost and life-expectancy of the projects. She explained the information included in document "b" (Narrative) and reviewed each of the categories.

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The discussion turned to the details provided on item c. (Five Year Plan spreadsheet).

Councilman Sweeney asked about the Independence Park Boat Ramp and noted that the spreadsheet reads "TBD" with Director of Community Development Williamson responding that there is no estimate for this project yet since the original project had a much larger scope. She added that the ramp may qualify for State funding.

Councilman Ley noted that the Library HVAC replacement is listed for year 2 and expressed concern that the Library is sometimes used as a "warming center." He asked to know if the priority might be changed to year 1 because of this function.

Town Administrator Contente responded the Library has six (6) units and that all are no immediate issues. He added that the year 2 replacement is "just planning ahead."

Council Chairman Calouro questioned the cost of the police vehicles at \$112,000 with Police Chief Lynch responding that the current "standard" police vehicles cost \$54-56,000 each - fully equipped. It was noted the new series of vehicles cannot accept recycled cages and light bars.

A discussion ensued regarding the police mobile command center with Councilwoman Parella suggesting that the project might be better completed all at once rather than the 1/3 per year as outlined in the budget.

Police Chief Lynch suggested that this capital spending would be a matter of preference.

Council Chairman Calouro asked to know if there might be grant funding available to support the improvements to the mobile command center with Police Chief Lynch responding that Lt. Wozny has applied for grants in the past with no success.

Councilman Sweeney asked to know if the Police Department has considered electric cars with Police Chief Lynch responding that the use of electric cars is a future goal across the industry, adding that the currently available electric cars do not have enough energy storage to last a full shift.

Councilman Teixeira suggested that the Town may wish to consider a "natural" swimming pool at the Walley Street Beach at some time in the future. He noted that this type of pool is used in Madeira Island.

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Council Chairman Calouro noted that it may be necessary to increase capital funding to complete the projects as listed.

A discussion ensued regarding the road program with Public Works Director McBride explaining that he updates the 2012 Beta Group road program list each year. He noted that Tupelo Street, Mt. Hope Avenue, and Broadcommon Road are beginning to fail and that the road program is amended each year to reflect the current condition of the roads.

Council Chairman Calouro asked to know if Town employees report on poor road conditions with Public Works Director McBride responding that the employees do this "all day long." He added that the department uses a "Facility Dude" program that accepts information reported by the employees.

Councilman Ley asked to know if the Town is making headway with its road program.

Public Works Director McBride explained that there are many roads that need resurfacing.

Councilman Ley stated that he has seen much improvement.

Councilman Teixeira noted that the roads have a longer life if repaired properly. It was explained that an earlier practice was to simply add a new surface to roads in need of repair and that the current practice is to better prepare the road bed prior to adding a new surface.

Councilman Teixeira asked to know the life expectancy of a properly resurfaced road with Public Works Director McBride responding that the road will last 20 years if paved and/or repaired properly.

Councilman Sweeney observed that many streets have been paved over time such that the road is near or above the level of the curb.

Public Works Director McBride agreed with Councilman Sweeney and noted that the problem is particularly widespread in the compact part of the Town. He added that the Town is doing its best to redo these roads properly.

Councilman Sweeney asked to know if the \$2 million in the budget is enough with Public Works Director McBride responding that the budget funding will not be enough to do all of the roads in need

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of improvement. He added, however, that there is a need to find balance in the number of roads that are being repaired and the Town's ability to do these practically.

Town Administrator Contente explained that the list cannot be totally relied upon since other priorities may surface from time to time. He reported that the Town repaired 26 streets last year.

Councilman Teixeira agreed that there is a need to "juggle" the schedule due to winter damage, etc. He added that he believes that the Town has made great progress with its road improvement program during the last few years.

Town Administrator Contente explained that the Town received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) that will allow for major repairs to roads, curbing, and sidewalks on Congregational Street, St. Elizabeth Street, Shaw's Lane, Rock Street and others in the Wood Street neighborhood.

Public Works Director McBride noted that sometimes the Town will postpone road work so as not to conflict with the plans of the BCWA or National Grid.

Council Chairman Calouro asked about the Town's plan to improve Hope Street sidewalks.

Town Administrator Contente explained that the State DOT has pushed this project (which has been on the books for many years) off to 2025. He reported that the Town will undertake some basic repairs itself since the sidewalks are in very poor condition in certain areas.

Public Works Director McBride added that these repairs will be completed in areas of major disrepair and will be completed sufficiently so as to last until the State repair project is finally realized.

Town Administrator Contente explained that the Town tries to leverage its capital spending as much as possible, reporting that the Town acquired a \$110,000 lift for \$8,000 through a government surplus program.

It was also reported that the Town will be upgrading the Town Hall rest rooms and adding a badge entry system for the Town Hall building complex.

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Council Chairman Calouro asked about the recreation field lighting with Director of Community Development Williamson reporting that the Town will likely receive news concerning its grant application during the month of March.

A discussion ensued regarding the Town Common basketball court with Town Administrator Contente agreeing to look at a rebuild. Council Chairman Calouro stated that this court is well used.

A discussion ensued regarding the Town Common drainage plan and those present agreed that it may be able to make certain repairs, including the basketball court, without first completing the drainage master plan.

Councilman Ley asked to know about the State Street Reservoir grant with Director of Community Development Williamson explaining that the \$200,000 grant for this project is similar to those that funded the water quality improvements at Guiteras School.

Town Administrator Contente noted that the Town is in a "holding pattern" for the Tanyard Brook III project.

Councilman Teixeira asked to know if this will be the final Tanyard phase with Town Administrator Contente explaining that it may be a final phase if the Town is successful in obtaining a grant to defray the cost.

An additional discussion ensued regarding the Police Department vehicles and the command center.

Police Chief Lynch noted that he keeps a spreadsheet on the police vehicles and that at the present time 5 are in poor condition and 4 are in "drastic" condition in need of replacement. He confirmed that it would be preferable to support the day to day fleet rather than the command center.

Councilman Sweeney asked to know the current fund balance with Town Treasurer Pellerin agreeing to provide this information via e-mail.

2. Adjournment

There being no further business, upon a motion by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilman Teixeira and voted unanimously, the Chairman declared this meeting to be adjourned at 8:30 o'clock PM.

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Louis P. Cirillo, CMC  
Council Clerk