

TOWN OF HARVARD
CAPITAL PLANNING & INVESTMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Thursday, Sept 23rd, 2021

Committee Members in Attendance: Nate Finch, SusanMary Redinger, Dick Fellows, Rich Maiore, Tim Bragan, Linda Dwight

Others: Capt. Rick Sicard, Harvard Fire Department

Public Comment

Paul Green spoke as a member of the Energy Advisory Committee on the proposed Climate Change Article coming up for a vote at fall Town Meeting, saying the article requests the town formally adopt state emissions guidelines. Paul asked the board to vote to support the article.

Dick Fellows asks about the financial impact to the town.

Paul Green replied that this is more about adapting to climate change, but requires no changes for private citizens.

SusanMary Redinger suggests we move this to the next meeting, since it was not on our agenda, and all members agree.

New Fire Truck

Fire Chief Sicard discussed the \$762,000 grant, and the specific truck they are looking to buy, which is a “quint” fire truck, which is both an aerial truck and a pumping truck.

SusanMary asked how often the current pumper truck goes out on calls, Chief Sicard responding that it’s about twice a week.

SusanMary asked about regionalization, Chief Sicard said that regionalization has been talked about, but it is slow to get moving.

Nate asked if it was accurate to say that the quint truck - which is more capable than an aerial truck - will be less expensive with the grant than just getting an aerial truck without the grant, which Chief Sicard agreed with.

Tim Bragan asked about how much it would cost to wait to buy new trucks, and Chief Sicard said they go up by about 10% per year.

Dick Fellows aside about cheaper options. Chief mentioned the department looked at taking the boom off the current aerial truck and putting it on a different chassis, but said that would have cost more than just buying the new truck with the grant.

SusanMary asked when the next large truck would be due to be replaced, if we bought this truck, and Chief Sicard replied that it would be in 2031.

Paul Green asked what buildings in town need an aerial truck, and Chief Sicard replied that it's useful for all buildings, since it's more about reaching the buildings over lawns and bushes and snow, rather than just going up high.

SusanMary proposed we vote to support borrowing \$965,000 to buy a new quint truck for the fire department, Rich Maiore seconded.

Vote 4-0 in favor

Unanimous motion to adjourn at 9:42am.