



TOWN of HATFIELD
Massachusetts

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Town Clerk

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Capital Improvement Planning Committee

February 10, 2020

Priority Projects

Town Administrator –

- 1.) Purchase Clear Gove Budget Software bundle for Accountant office. The proposed program is designed to develop municipal budgets and do forecasting. This would replace the Excel workbook the Town has worked with for so many years. Funding from Operating Budget or Grant.

Fire Department –

- 1.) Communications Equipment – current equipment is more than a generation old. Many pagers and radios do not work and are not able to communicate with surrounding Fire Departments in case of Mutual Aid. **Safety Issue**
- 2.) Replace outdated Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA's) – The FD has been notified by the current manufacturer of our SCBA's that this is the final year to get replacement parts for those that need service. There is a need to purchase approximately 20 units to fully stock all equipment. **Safety Issue**

DPW –

- 1.) Engineering study and Final Design for Rte. 5 Water Main – C&S to Whately Line
- 2.) Replace failing culvert on Pantry Road to keep the road from being further damaged.
- 3.) Fire Hydrant replacement – there are a number of fire hydrants that have failed or are failing around town that need replacing.
- 4.) Fire Station improvements – cleanup and make the back of the building (the one that faces School St. and the Basketball courts) more esthetically pleasing.
- 5.) Elm Court Site – remove large pine trees and replace with fence to ensure proper security and for esthetic purposes.

Schools –

- 1.) Replace Walk-In Freezer that is failing. **Priority Need.**
- 2.) Replace Parking Lots at both schools. They are in dire need of attention. Possibly hazard to those using/walking through the lots.
- 3.) Renewal/Renovation of classrooms at Smith Academy. Replace well, worm flooring and reconfigure classrooms and purchase necessary furniture to allow for 21st Century learning styles of all students.
- 4.) Replace Chromebooks and other technology needs. In order to keep up with the ever-changing technology necessary for a 21st Century learner this is a necessary annual cost.
- 5.) Refurbish Gym Floor. (School Choice Funds? Athletic Revolving?)

The Capital Improvement Planning Committee has prioritized the above projects based upon the department requests. Some of these projects will not get done if we wait for the necessary "Free Cash" to be available. The CIPC would recommend that the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee look at borrowing the necessary funds to complete projects such as the Fire Department requests for updated communication equipment as

well as the Breathing Apparatus necessary to replace outdated equipment. The parking lots at the schools are in dire need of replacing, and there is work to do at the Sewer Plant in the next few years.

Should we consider refinancing some of the outstanding debt we now have so that we can borrow more money to cover some of these projects without increasing significantly the payments the town now makes to cover these larger projects?

Should there be consideration of a "Debt Exclusion" to fund some of these projects?

There is already a need to fund the Sewer Extension on Rte. 5 to take advantage of the MassWorks Grant. Might some of these be "bundled together?"

It is time we start doing these maintenance projects before they become emergency replacement projects!