

**Long Range Financial Planning Committee Meeting  
February 8, 2017 8:00am  
Selectmen's Meeting Room**

<b>Attending:</b>
Nancy Hyde, Board of Selectmen
Barbara Delisle, Fincom
Mike Jaillet, Town Administrator
Bruce Montgomery, At Large Member
Todd Korchin, DPW
Juliet Onderdonk, WAHA
Jane O'Donnell, WAHA
Carol Lewis, School Committee

**DPW Road Maintenance**

Todd Korchin, DPW Director, joined the meeting and discussed the cost of maintenance of the 90 miles of streets and sidewalks within Westwood. Currently, the town's streets are in excellent shape, earning the highest grade in the Commonwealth in the most recent evaluation. In order to maintain them at this level, Todd estimates that it will cost approximately \$800K per year. Westwood receives \$540K per year from the state through Chapter 90, but that leaves a deficit of just over \$250K each year. Many years, the amount received from the state goes toward large or unexpected projects, rather than regular maintenance. Sidewalk projects, which are the next area of need, are also included in this cost, and are quite expensive to repair/maintain because of the ADA compliance requirements.

Todd has requested that a \$250K per year line item be built into the capital budget to cover this difference. Todd suggests that one option would be to have a catch up year, to maintain the higher level of funding needed. Currently, the DPW has approximately \$160k left of the 2016-2017 state funding, and with the additional \$540K they will receive from the state next year would be a total of \$700K available. The other option would be an incremental approach, whereby a certain amount (possibly \$50K or \$75K) is allocated each year in the capital budget, and then ramp that amount up over time.

Nancy mentioned that a key question is in an effort to not fall behind and allow the streets to fall into disrepair, how quickly would it be necessary to move the funding up to the \$250K level.

Other DPW items to note: after receiving \$400K from the Complete Streets program, have been able to get projects out to bid early, resulting in getting lower bids from companies who are looking for jobs to start their season. The Clapboardtree/Washington Street intersection is the next major project they are taking on. It is currently in the design stage and will be partly funded with

mitigation funds from the Benchmark development on Clapboardtree Street. The design will include adding a second lane on Clapboardtree St approaching the intersection and left turn signals in an effort to increase safety and flow of traffic at this intersection. The town anticipates receiving \$450K from Benchmark, and will have an article for ATM for approximately \$300-\$350K.

### **Blue Hills Regional Technical School**

Carol Lewis attended the meeting to discuss the request from Blue Hills for additional funds for a \$140M project to renovate the school. Westwood currently has 6 students attending the technical school. Our portion of the cost is relatively small, but is higher per student than towns that have more students attending. Charlie Flahive, the Westwood representative for Blue Hills, will be asked to coordinate having a presentation of the project made to the Board of Selectmen and School Committee (possibly at a joint meeting).

### **Westwood Affordable Housing Associates (WAHA) Capital**

Juliette Onderdonk is on the board of WAHA and gave a brief history of the organization. WAHA is a not for profit arm of Westwood Housing and owns homes in seven locations around town. Many of these homes were donated to the town in poor condition and over the years WAHA has taken out loans to make necessary improvements. Day to day repairs are covered by rent they collect. At this point all of the houses need major structural work (roofs, siding, bathrooms, kitchens), and WAHA has maxed out their home equity line, and cannot raise rents as these are affordable units. WAHA is asking the town for capital funding to complete these projects. All the projects at all the houses would cost approximately \$420K.

The committee asked the WAHA representatives to create a priority list, with which items need to be done in the immediate term and how further expenditures can be scheduled to occur over time. This is something that the Board of Selectmen should be updated on as well.

### **Courts Update**

Mike Jaillet gave a quick update on the courts project. The survey of the East Street bridge area is starting. Todd Korchin suggested the Hanlon School as another possible relocation site for the Islington courts. The number of hours gained by lighting the high school courts was discussed briefly. It was determined that this topic needs more information, and will not be ready for a decision at ATM, rather it should wait until the fall town meeting.

Next Meeting will be held March 8, 2017 at 8am in the Selectmen's meeting room.