

Town of Jackson Planning Board
Minutes – October 26, 2023 Working Meeting
- UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED

Call to Order: Chairman Bill Terry called the meeting to order at 5:05 P.M. Chairman Terry conducted the roll call of all members. In attendance were Members Scott Badger, Sarah Kimball, David Campbell, Dick Bennett, and Kathleen Dougherty and Alternates Jerry Dougherty and James Wasco. The Board of Selectmen representatives were Chairman Barbara Campbell, Bob Thompson, and Frank DiFruscio. Public attendees were Peter Benson, Emily Benson and Hank Benesh who recorded the meeting which will be made available on Jacksonflicks.com Chairman Terry stated that there is no need to determine voting Members tonight as no actions will require a vote.

Approval of Minutes: No Minutes were reviewed.

Public Comment: No comments not related to the Capital Improvement Program

Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Update: Chairman Terry opened the meeting by thanking everyone for being at this meeting. Chairman Terry stated there were three objectives for the meeting today, and they are 1. Determining what are the needs for the Town in the next 5-10 years, 2. Deciding the priority of the needs, what is the most important and 3. Determining what/how we can afford to pay for the needs.

What are the needs for the Town: Selectmen Chairman Campbell raised the absence of the ambulance costs and that they need to be added to the list even though the cost and need has been previously determined. Selectman Thompson raised the question on how the needs list was created and what was determined as essential. There was a lot of discussion on determining the needs of the Town and their connection with keeping of the character of the Town. The needs list was a result of Planning Board Members and Alternates discussing with various departments their needs for the future. The Jackson School was identified as having needs but they remain undefined. The School Board had asked for money in the past, but we received no direct input for the CIP.

Priority of the needs: The discussion was on priorities of needs for each department. There was a lot of discussion on how we prioritize either by department or on the total list and what we can afford. Defining needs/departments/functions as being essential to the Town is another way of setting priorities on the CIP. Discussion on creating a priority list could be a five- or ten-year plan, and some items might not be started for years. There was agreement that safety was a high priority and that Highway department needs such as road and culvert repair fit that description and that the salt storage roof enabled better response for winter road conditions. There was a lot of discussion on prioritizing the needs for the fire station including the possibility of replacement and/or refurbishing the current building that included defining the cost. Chairman Terry continued to review additional items and said that we need to prioritize these other items.

How/what are we able to pay/fund: Member Kimball shared that her review of previous budgets indicated that we have spent \$400 - \$500K per year for CIP expenditures. She stated that if we want

the tax impact to be stable, we need to stay within that range to have minimal impact on taxes. The discussion on funding for the larger items focused on the use of a bond issuance. Selectmen Chairman Campbell asked if current funded or reserved equipment needs to be on the CIP; Chairman Terry stated they do, but that we can indicate in the CIP the status of the funding for those items. Chairman Terry stated that current funded expenses need to be further outlined on our worksheet for better clarity on status.

Chairman Terry asked and everyone agreed that an additional working meeting with Selectmen will be scheduled. We will look at dates and times at the next regular Planning Board meeting. Selectmen Chairman Campbell and Member Campbell agreed to work on updating the CIP document with current capital expenditures and dates for those items.

Member Bennett motioned to adjourn the meeting and Member Dougherty seconded. The motion was approved unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

Next regular Planning Board meeting is November 9, 2023.

Respectfully submitted by David L. Campbell, Secretary