

Councilor Nuccio Capital Improvement Plan Questions/Responses:

BOE Questions:

1. What is the decision with the arterial lift for the BoE? You mention expenses for the BoE - per the presentations they have incurred \$18,500 for professional services. If this has a ten year life cycle we're nowhere near exceeding the cost of \$80k. It would make more sense to continue to pay for these services when needed rather than buying one with a 20 year bond expense. Unless I'm missing something

Articulating Lift-

The \$18,000 was for (2) years of actual rentals when we did some of the projects at THS, TMS and TIS. This is actual rental costs and does not include the actual subcontracting of work because we don't have the resources to conduct it like: exterior cameras, exterior lighting, exterior window work, painting, caulking, signage, loading failed equipment on the roofs (compressors, fans, and larger motors), etc. The lift would enhance our capacity to conduct more projects at our own pace and timeframes, maximize efficiencies, avoid vendor lead times, etc. Ideally, The BOE believes that a piece of equipment like this should be shared with both the BOE and the Town as it would help us both, although I believe the BOE would get more use out of it based upon their building portfolios. A 10 year useful life would be on the low side for a piece of equipment like this. A reputable brand like JLG, etc., would have parts for repairs for years to come on equipment like this. Could the BOE live without it, yes, but it limits the types of projects we might entertain in the future, will delay some repairs for elevated work areas, maintains our necessity for rental equipment and continues our dependence on outside contractors who are becoming increasingly difficult to find especially for projects like ours that are sometimes inconsistent and small in revenue.

2. For the \$80k above you could buy both the Dishwasher and Sink station / Oven for the same cost and not buy the lift instead of bonding. Is the useful life of these two items 20+ years?

We would need slightly more than 80,000 and I think the life is fairly long for these kitchen items the other ones are extremely old. I know all pieces of equipment are needed.

3. Same question with the track resurfacing? What is the useful life?

Track Resurfacing-

Industry standards are 10-15 years for a resurface. The current track at TMS was installed about 2-3 years before the new High School was built based upon reports from Town employees that were around at the time. That puts the current age at about 18 years already with no resurface or respray. We are beyond the high number of years for useful life already. If more time were to lapse without a resurface the edges will begin to curl and the track will dry and crack resulting in water entry which will undermine the base of the track resulting in eventual total replacement.

FYI- useful life will fluctuate with sunlight, standing water or environmental conditions, use or wear of the track surface, quality of initial install, thickness of the resurface, encroachment of plant life on the track or track base

4. I think we should push out the turf field for the three years we were told we could get for the life of the turf. If we push it out the three years we can use the money we are going to bank from the SAFER grant to pay mostly for the field with cash. I would still like to discuss the BoE kicking in for this purchase from their ERF.

The date that is in for this has been pushed out already. Maybe speak with the BOE at the joint meeting about it. It is in the second year of the plan and possibly we can do another analysis during this spring when the normal maintenance is done to see if anything can be done.

5. On the List of the Board of Education vehicles, their list is asking to replace the 2012 Ford 150 Pickup, that's not showing in this file.

That was a mistake. It's already funded. That was in my memo that I sent to the whole Council on Sunday, February 13th.

6. For the new tractor for BGP – what are they currently using to remove the snow? What is the need for a “new” tractor for snow removal?

Tractor BGP-

We are trying to mimic what we did at TIS with the same tractor there as that has been very helpful in removing snow from the long runs of sidewalks as well as the blacktop playground areas which are not a priority of the Town after storms. We also have (2) patios at BGP and the amount of concrete sidewalks rivals that of a community college. The Town is actually outsourcing a lot of the snow removal at BGP to an outside contractor which is pretty expensive. The funds for the current year were not budgeted for this in the Town budget and we are using some savings in payroll attrition to fund the services for now. Those funds will not be budgeted for the full amount next year. The thought is with a little more capacity to help the Town with the use of another piece of equipment we might be able to reduce the amount of outside contracting being used to remove the snow. The tractor also has a dual benefit of mowing as there are some significant mowing areas around the school. Currently the BOE has a few paddle blowers, one Simplicity 24-28" blower, one Honda blower and one Ariens 28" blower. These work ok for small sidewalk areas but aren't great for larger sidewalk areas, large drifts, pile management, playground areas, etc.

7. For the THS rear loading EDO dock, if this dock is “unique and more expensive” why don’t we put one in that isn’t so unique and more expensive and maybe less than \$10k? Why would we put in another “unique and more expensive” item?

THS Rear Dock Leveler-

The rear Edge of Dock Leveler (EOD) at THS is unique because the site is unique. We have no other site with the extreme incline over a short distance. The front loading dock at THS and the new Birch Grove dock all have gradual inclines. The unique nature of the rear loading dock at THS requires the leveler to be inset in the concrete to be able to match up height-wise with the average truck and also contains a small ramp to be able to match up with the loading dock roll-up door. Based upon the site condition the cost of install and product is just more difficult and expensive. There are just very limited options to do this the right way. We are in year 17 on the current unit and with the use it gets, environmental factors like salt use in the winter, etc., the unit is just at the end of its useful life even with us repainting it about every other year.

Year 1:

1. Can we use the ARPA funds for the VacAll and the sweeper since they’re both for the MS4 program?

Already said yes in the meeting you might’ve missed that.

2. I’m not so sure I’m sold on “Pickleball”. Do we have numbers of how many people are playing pickleball? We have a contingent asking for a skating rink also and that’s not in here... the proposal is to put the pickleball court where we used to have the skating rink... has there been consideration for doing both?

The Recreation Commission has been working with the group that is interested in the skating rink. They are discussing getting donations to get this done. I have not included it for now, until more information becomes available. The ice rink that is being proposed is a portable/seasonal rink that if approved by the town would be raised by donations.

I do not have exact numbers of the number of people playing pickle ball. I do know that the courts at Crandall Park (tennis courts that double as pickleball courts) are constantly being used. We have been approached by members of the community with interest of stand-alone pickleball courts. The Recreation Advisory Board is in favor of both projects.

Following was published by the National Recreation and Parks Association

Pickleball Ascendant

When does a niche recreational sport go big time? Just trace the history of pickleball since its inception in 1965. Now named as the fastest growing sport in America by *The Economist*, pickleball is estimated to have more than 4 million people playing it annually. With its exponential growth has come stories and videos of celebrity players and pickleball influencers. The best part about pickleball is its universality.

Virtually anyone can play, and schools and recreation centers are expanding opportunities for youth to play in a variety of indoor and outdoor settings.

3. Are there any grant opportunities (small cities, etc.) for the Cross Farms ADA walkway? Same question with the Emergency generator for the highway garage, are there grant opportunities?

I have been told no at this time. Beverly Bellody tried for a “Connectivity Grant” for the walkway last year or the year before with no success. The only Grant for emergency generators that I am aware of was the one we obtained two years ago for emergency shelters (Senior Center). This generator would not have qualified under that emergency management grant program.

4. For the parks and facilities garage “upgrade” ... define “upgrade” ... are we replacing the building or expanding on it?

The building is in poor condition. The roof collapsed a couple years ago. We had that fixed however if you see the building it definitely needs some improvements. There is no place for the crew to really eat their lunch except on top of a hazardous area and no place for them to sleep if they have to work overnight. The intention is to leave the existing structure with minor remodeling and to construct a “Morton” style building on the Town property next door (in front of our storage building) for an administrative office, a lunch / break room and a defined rest area for overnight storms.

5. Shingled roof at the highway garage – this is \$16k, can we use money from the excess revenues from this year to pay for this rather than the CRNE?

The shingled portion has a requested amount of \$44,000 not just the \$16,000. Unfortunately this is partially funded with a LoCIP grant that year that is not available in the current year. So we can't use savings in this year in a future year unless you want me to increase the amount allocated in the budget from general fund and use more fund balance as a resource.

6. How many trees will we be able to trim for the \$70k a year?

Since the additional funding being secured for the hazardous tree mitigation program, we have removed approximately 240 hazardous trees as of last week. We are currently in our third year so a fair estimate would be 75 – 100 trees per year.

7 For the replacement of light duty vehicles – there are two Pool vehicles. Why do we need two pool vehicles?

They are really not both pool vehicles. One is assigned to the planning department. And the other is a pool vehicle that is constantly being borrowed by the fire department, as well as, all other departments who need to use it.

The 16' Toro mower @ \$115,488 we just put \$16k into this mower for repairs 2 years ago. Can we push this out a year or two to get our money's worth?

After we order it and by the time we get it, it will probably be a little bit longer because of the process these days. From my understanding it cannot be pushed out any more than it has been already. That's our problem with a lot of our equipment it's been pushed out for years to the point where things are falling apart and are becoming dangerous. The Toro mower has been pushed off for at least two years, if not three. The recent repair was for the hydraulic system which controls all of the mower heads as well as the drive system. This has nothing to do with the engine or any of the other moving parts. It is currently twelve years old, subject to a dusty, sometimes wet working environment and will realistically take at least a year to get a replacement. We are definitely on borrowed time with this machine.

8 Replacement of Truck #10 – this is listed as fair condition and has superficial damage, can we push this out a year?

No. This truck has almost 100,000 hard miles on it. The extensive corrosion shown at the rear of the cab is much more than superficial damage. It is within inches of what is called the cab mounts which hold the cab of the truck on the frame. When they rot out the cab can literally drop down onto the frame and become a very dangerous situation.

9 Refurbishment of ET-240 – are we using the wash bay to reduce salt and corrosion?

- a. ET240 has been evaluated and is a viable apparatus to be refurbished. We have already had the frame repaired to address any structural issues. It is at the age where we typically upgrade the fire pump, repair any body rust and damage, bring the vehicle up to current safety standards, and repaint the entire vehicle. This will add approximately 10 years to the life span of the vehicle as a front-line responder. Be advised that the refurbishment project is not being funded by Capital Funds, it is funded by the Ambulance fund with no cost to the taxpayers.
- b. The fire department is currently using the wash bay on a regular basis to reduce the impact of the corrosive road treatments.

Year one notes:

I notice that we have a new fire truck in every year including this year, ET-540. What is the status of the fire truck that we already approved? Have we received it? Is it still back ordered? Why are we ordering another one when we haven't gotten the one we currently have on order. I'm concerned that we are replacing a truck a year and especially this year when prices are so high. Can we push out this year's truck to next year and so forth?

- a. ET540 is currently 10 years past the life span of a usable fire apparatus. The purchase of its replacement was originally scheduled with the replacement of Rescue 240. This has been pushed off for over 5 years and increased the repair costs for both vehicles. Rescue 240 is being

replaced by the Squad apparatus currently in production. Unfortunately, we have an aging apparatus fleet whose replacement plan has been delayed due to other town priorities.

- b. Regarding the current truck on order, the Squad chassis is due to be delivered to the factory in the beginning of April. The construction will be starting shortly thereafter. We have been in constant contact with the company and have addressed many pre-construction issues that have arisen.
- c. It is important to continue with the replacement as supply and demand for apparatus and parts will not be going back to pre-covid conditions for quite a while. By delaying ordering the next apparatus we will fall way behind in replacing the aging fleet. In discussions with the trades, the costs are not going back to pre-covid levels.

I don't see anything in here regarding the sidewalk engineering study for the accessibility on the green. Are we going to put a placeholder in for any modifications we plan to make?

That is correct you will not see it here. I'm covering it in the current year budget and have contracted to have a study done with a historical engineering firm so that way we can have information available when it's addressed in the spring. The historic commission and persons with disabilities will be invited for input when it begins.

Year 2 notes:

1. Pickup truck #56. "The new vehicle would become the supervisors truck and truck #3 would go to the fleet" Which supervisor and why not for the original use of the truck?

The Parks & Facilities Supervisor's current vehicle is a 2018 Ford F-250 with a snow plow which is used for municipal lots, Fire Stations and Board of Education lots. By the time this vehicle is ordered and received, the vehicle being replaced will be at least six years old which is the recommended replacement timeframe. It has been past practice to give the Supervisor the newer vehicle as it is assigned to one person and tends to be better taken care of which makes it more valuable to use as part of our fleet for another four or five years.

2. Replacement of Truck #35: "the projected cost takes into account cost escalation for FIVE YEARS from now" not sure I understand that comment.

The comment regarding the 5 years should have been removed. That was a comment from when it was first put into the program five years ago.

3. Sweeper: mentioned above in possible ARPA money – "We currently spend approximately \$50k a year on contracted services" – is this on TOP of the cost of \$275k? If we're currently spending \$50k and we have to spend \$275k for the sweeper we should expect to see a reduction of \$50k in the budget for this purchase so the net would be \$225k.

We need the sweeper and some of the funds to remain in the budget. There is a lot of work to be done and it's difficult to get an outside firm to do it, as well as, very costly. We have \$60,000 budgeted to be split between tree trimming and sweeping. When we contract out our street sweeping we typically spend \$27,000 - \$30,000. If additional funds are expended, it is for disposal fees for the sweepings due to them being considered hazardous waste. If we had it, any reduction would be \$30,000 not \$50,000 due to completing the sweeping in-house but we will still have the disposal of the sweepings to consider.