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Hebron Planning Board
Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Committee
Minutes of Public Hearing 09/28/2010

Committee Members Present: Present: Mitch Manseau (chair), Dan Merritt (Town building officer), Ileana Saros, Dian West, Mark Coulson, John Dunklee and Sheila Oranch (secretary).

Others Present: Lee Knight, John Fischer (fire chief).

Time Convened: 7:00 PM **Time Adjourned:** 8:30 PM **Next Meetings:** TBD

Mitch Manseau welcomed everyone and asked for introductions. He explained that the purpose of a CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) committee is to provide a hard foundation of departmental needs to assist the Board of Selectmen with the budget process. In 2009 the CIP was extended to ten years with annual reviews. The process is to request all Town department heads to describe and estimate costs for their requirements for the next ten years. The committee averages costs and suggests how to keep funding level. Mr. Manseau led a review of the spreadsheet by department, inviting questions as they arose.

In the Fire Department, the Hydraulic Rescue Tool (like a “Jaws of Life”) is obsolete due to new automobile construction materials. Using the wrong tool can cause danger to rescue personnel and victims. Protective Clothing is required by new Federal regulations and has handles so fire-fighters can be safely dragged out. The need for a Command Vehicle was not obvious and as it is so far in the future can be discussed in the next cycle. Other items in the future include an SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) and an OHRV (off-highway recreational vehicle) for off-road rescue. Both items will be discussed further.

Lee Knight expressed concern about level funding and “nice to have” versus “must have.” In today’s economy, he would challenge the Selectmen and every department to try to reduce budgets by 10%.

The Highway department reported the NLRA culvert inspection determined that the proposed repairs to the Cooper Road culvert will not work so a new estimate is needed. The Beechwood Road repairs may have to be delayed, depending on the cost of the Cooper Road repairs. John Matthews announced that Casey Kuplin is now the Highway Supervisor and will be updating project planning and getting estimates. Several paving projects have been voted for delay as they are not critical this year.

Town Hall, communications, government buildings repair, hydrologic study, cemetery expansion fencing, security alarms for government buildings and the George Road relocation were discussed. Lee Knight asked why security alarms are needed and John Dunklee explained that several radios have walked out of the Safety Building, and that the Highway Shed which will house newer vehicles is remote and unsupervised. The Highway Shed will be the first to get an alarm and all the alarms will be tied into a remote system that calls a monitoring service.

Lee Knight expressed his concerns about taxes, about Town Hall planning and complimented the CIP committee on its work.

The consensus was to leave the CIP as is pending updated information and review it a month before Town Meeting to refine the highway/culvert repair expenses, and republish it. Mr. Manseau will report on this hearing to the Planning Board 10/6/10.

Dan Merritt moved/Dian Riddle seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:30 PM. PASSED