

- In-depth discussion ensued among commission members and Mr. Corbert pertaining to the roads, the need for additional road studies, details on past projects and the associated costs along with the estimated costs for the upcoming road work
- Building the funds will also avoid the need for bonding in the future

Drainage Projects

- Current balance of approximately \$128,000
- FY 25/26 request is for \$100,000
- Mr. Hawkins explained that keeping this balance at around \$150,00 is ideal
- Funds are mostly used for detention basin work, catch basins, driveways, curbing and under-drainage issues

Small Bridge Project

- Current balance of \$120,337 (Total of two accounts)
- Mr. Hawkins is requesting \$50,000 for FY 25/26
- These funds cover miscellaneous issues that occur throughout the year such as smaller culverts and smaller bridge repairs for local bridges that have no other funding available. It can also be used for design if necessary
- Concerns have been raised by the DOT about the Willow Creek Bridge, a wooden bridge, which may require a study to determine a way to increase the weight capacity – funding will come from this account although grant opportunities are also being considered
- Boston Neck Road Bridge has some maintenance needs – DPW may be able to perform the required maintenance with guidance provided by Barton and Loguidice

Russell Avenue Bridge

- FY 25/26 request is for \$750,000
 - The same amount was requested for FY 24/25 and FY 23/24
- This will be 100% paid for by the Federal Local Bridge Program which is a reimbursement grant
- Town of Suffield must front the money for the project
- Design and right-of-way acquisition costs will be handled by the State
- Construction costs will be paid by the town and the state will reimburse
- The plan was to request \$750,000 over three fiscal years to cover the costs as the project will be a long process and work is not expected to begin until 2025/2026 – this is the third installment as the current balance is \$1.5 million
- Current cost estimate is \$2.25 million

Storm Water Management

- FY 25/26 request is for \$20,000
- Meant to keep the town in compliance
- The town works with a consultant who assists with reports required to the state
- Consultant updates maps, prepares the annual report and conducts field observations and sampling required in the town's DEEP storm water permit

Farmland Preservation

Funding in the amount of \$50,000 is being requested to increase the balance of the Open Space account to preserve farmland and open space. Currently, the Open Space fund is in a healthy position as the state has been covering more of the costs, leaving the town to fund appraisals and surveys. There are two projects in the pipeline at this time. Increasing the fund balance will allow the town to continue working with multiple properties that have expressed interest in farmland preservation.

Farmland/Open Space Preservation is a highly supported initiative in Suffield. The more funding we have in place, the more properties we can work with at the same time. The town maintains a master list of approximately 10 properties whose owners have expressed interest in preserving their land. The State of CT has been funding the Farmland Preservation Program and allocating money to the DEEP Open Space grant program.

Discussion ensued among the commission members and Mr. Hawkins relative to the various requests this evening. Mr. Hawkins answered the questions and addressed concerns accordingly.

Discussion

Mr. Corbert provided an update on the proposed elevator modernization project at Town Hall. Two different companies quoted the work, one who guaranteed they could complete the work for an updated hydraulic system or a new traction system. The other company would only commit to the hydraulic system. He provided details of the options available, the process for each option and the projected costs. In-depth conversation ensued among the commission members and Mr. Corbert who addressed their concerns and answered their questions accordingly.

Chairman Belcher reminded reviewed the remaining meeting schedule and reminded everyone of the upcoming Public Hearing on Thursday, January 30th.

Commissioner Sattan MOTIONED and Commissioner Crosson seconded to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen O. Lambert
Recording Secretary

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