

2025 FEB -5 PM 3: 12

REC'D BY: *me*

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ADVISORY
COMMISSION ON CAPITAL EXPENDITURES
JANUARY 28, 2025
7:00 P.M.**

Present: Brad Belcher, Alexander Lepage, Mike Sattan, Saeed Akbar, Scott Crosson (via Zoom), George Austin and Don Miner

Also in attendance: Scott Cunningham – Fire Chief, Paul Christian – Fire Commission Chair and Peter Leclerc – Director of Community Services

Chairman Belcher called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Participation

None.

Presentation from Chief Scott Cunningham – Fire Department

Chairman Belcher invited Chief Cunningham and Mr. Christian to present to the commission.

Chief Cunningham requested \$60,000 in order to purchase at least 10 full sets of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE.) This gear is personally fitted to each individual and has a 10-year life expectancy. The equipment currently being used is considered to be outdated and non-compliant, therefore, this request is a high priority for the Fire Department. Chief Cunningham provided a quote for one complete set of PPE which includes a fire helmet, protective nomex hood, gloves, fire coat, pants and boots.

In addition, Chief Cunningham commented briefly on his hope to orchestrate a more realistic replacement schedule for large pieces of fire apparatus in order to avoid mass replacement at the same time as was the case between 2019 and 2023. Chairman Belcher also walked through the open Fire Department Capital Accounts and offered suggestions to Chief Cunningham on how to proceed with them.

Presentation from Peter Leclerc – Community Services

Chairman Belcher invited Peter Leclerc – Director of Community Services to present to the commission. Mr. Leclerc referenced spreadsheets that had been provided to the commission for review and walked them through the capital requests for FY 25/26. His requests included:

- Mini-Bus \$130,000 (Senior Center Request)
- Vehicle \$36,000 (Community Center Request)
- Flooring \$27,000 (Community Center Request)
- 3 USA Volleyball rated Beach Volleyball Courts at Suffield Middle School (Parks & Recreation Request)

In-depth discussion ensued among the commission members and Mr. Leclerc regarding each of his requests. Mr. Leclerc answered all questions accordingly.

Discussion

General discussion ensued regarding the upcoming prioritization meeting and the possibility of changing the prioritization methodology for this year. Chairman Belcher noted the next meeting would be on Thursday, January 30th at 7:00 p.m. This meeting will begin with the Public Hearing, followed by the regular ACCE meeting immediately following.

Commissioner Lepage MOTIONED and Commissioner Saeed seconded to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen O. Lambert
Recording Secretary