

## **Manager's project update: Oct 3, 2022 meeting**

Below please find a brief summary and update of ongoing projects. (As of 9/29/22)

### **Highlights:**

We received a \$500,000 STEAP grant for the second softball field and a lot of attention from the Governor.

Our new ambulance is two inspections away from going into service and we are in contact with the firm we purchased it from to arrange the sale of our old ambulance.

We believe we have a good School HVAC grant application due Dec 1. We will need to discuss the grant funding requirements.

The Annual Lake Forum was held on September 20<sup>th</sup> in CHS Veterans Auditorium and also broadcast.

Timothy Brennan will be starting as our new Building Official in a few weeks.

The girls' softball field construction has started and the new transfer station is paved. The scale is scheduled for moving and the planned opening is Oct 6<sup>th</sup>.

Loomis and Carver Lane paving completed and Lakewood waiting for pavement.

Both South Street and Swamp/44 Lotcip project are scheduled for substantial completion mid-October.

Hop River Road Bridge replacement bid is now out for an October 27<sup>th</sup> bid opening.

### Public Works/Engineering

LOTICIP grants: The Swamp Rd/Rt. 44 project is in the final paving process with a mid-October substantial completion anticipated. Landscaping under way. The current section of Swamp will be removed and a new Town of Coventry sign installed which we received free from our sign vendor...only had to buy the lettering.

Loomis and Carver Lane road work is mostly complete with some curbing backfilling remaining. Good progress continues on Lakewood Road and we hope it will be done by end of October. Waiting on outside paving crew and CT Water to eliminate a few abandoned pipes. Will move onto Edgewater.

Major tree work is ongoing. After many outages in the Silver Street area affecting 125 homes, we got the attention of Eversource again and a tree crew continues work on South Street. This area has experienced over 8 outages in the last several months. It appears they are upgrading and relocating a lot of poles too.

Todd Penney continues to work toward getting the plans and specs for the Community Connectivity grant for sidewalks on Main Street from Hemlock Point Lane to approximately Cheney Lane. Starting to seek the required easements from the State and neighbors. A fall 2022 construction project is not feasible, but we asked for and received an extension until June 30, 2023.

We are trying to select an engineer for the LOTICIP grant for the intersection of Swamp and South, including the South Street curves, and a dip in Swamp Road. Construction is hoped for the fall of 2022,

but more likely 2023. Still waiting for engineering proposals. The balance of the engineering expense will come from the savings from the Hop River Bridge match or CNREF.

The South Street road reconstruction and sidewalk project near the Homestead is underway. We are considering extending the sidewalk to the Strong Porter museum with some savings in the local match for Hop River Bridge. Base paving completed and final paving expected over the next several weeks. Todd found an alternative sidewalk treatment which is more historically appropriate which is less expensive than the option we were looking at and falls within the State-set maximums.... so no local funds will be required.

The methane venting project for the Miller Richardson football field was hydro-seeded, and grass is finally growing but due to the lack of rain it will need to be over seeded.

The State-designed Hop River Road Bridge replacement is out to bid with an Oct 27<sup>th</sup> opening date. After bid award the project will start with utility work in fall and materials ordered for a spring construction. GM2 will be our construction inspectors. The State will be using Federal funds to pay 100% of the project costs including inspection.

We still need to replace two culverts, one located on Bunker Hill Road and the other on Parker Bridge Road. We have submitted two grant applications for this year's Local Bridge grant round and are still waiting for a response - still promised in September, but likely early October. The grants, if we are awarded one or both, require a 50% match. Our share is included in the proposed bonding. We also have to fully replace the Broadway culvert, which is not currently eligible for State funds. We will need money for this design and future funding in 4 years or so. There is a possibility CROCOG will have a LOTCIP culvert round which covers 100% of construction costs.

We received a report from Jacobson Engineering on a study of the 16 larger Town bridges. Two appear to qualify for the 100% funding level; Depot Road and Brigham Hill (both over the Willimantic River). The Council gave us funds to proceed with applications. We expect them to be prepared over the next several months.

We continue to have productive meetings with the company considering acquiring the Microgrid project (\$4,000,000 grant). They have asked for a meeting with CT DEEP to discuss modifying the project to include the solar now anticipated on the CHS roof and right sizing the CHP units. Will now explore some Federal FEMA BRIC money and have started discussions with the cognizant State agency and Sen. Murphy's office.

The new transfer station is getting ready for an October 6<sup>th</sup> opening. Not everything will be completed, such as the new office shed which is still a couple weeks out. The scale is scheduled to be moved early next week. Construction of the first girls' softball field has started but we need to get the old transfer station out of the way to really proceed. The STEAP grant application for the second field was awarded! We also need to plan the best uses for the \$500,000 of anticipated State bonding for Miller Richardson park, ADA and equity projects.

Carver Lane and Loomis Drive paving is now complete and curbing underway. Lakewood Road/drainage work is complete and waiting for outside pavers. Work on Edgewater Drive will start with hopes of finishing this fall.

Public Safety - Police: Tracie Johnson has started as our Executive Assistant to Chief Peterson. She just retired as a Sergeant from Manchester PD. She did many of the tasks we need. The Chief will start working on Sergeant promotions, and we are also very close on the Captain promotion which will be

going to the Town Council. We are still looking for part time dispatchers. The CALEA evaluation process was submitted and a few clarifications are being responded to.

Fire EMS: The replacement fire truck ordered last year is expected in December. Our alternative ambulance replacement is complete and awaits DMV and DPH inspection before it can go into service. Work is underway to develop cost reductions or revenue enhancements to make the ambulance service more financially sustainable. A strategic plan for the development conducted by the department is being finalized which is being shared with the Council.

Finance: The school roof work planned for this summer was substantially completed. The school fire alarm work is complete. The high school roof is now ready for solar which may merge into Microgrid. The possible middle school renovate-as-new concept discussion is postponed until fall to allow the State to provide guidance on the new HVAC grants. The new grants were announced with a December 1 application deadline. We are in good shape since our plans are pretty much done. We need to discuss the funding requirements to submit this grant. We will be able to get them out to bid next summer. Some school walls work was squeezed in this summer with the balance planned for Christmas break. We continue to work with the Finance Committee and Town Council on the complicated American Rescue Plan funding planning.

Development Group: We are following up on meeting in with the Town of Manchester on the local agreements required to allow an extension to the Bolton Lakes sewer system. A community funding request for this project was selected by Congressman Courtney and passed by the House. It is now up for consideration in reconciliation with the Senate budget. Manchester feels that a decision timeframe of October is reasonable. We are also paying attention to the treatment plant in hopes of getting Federal Rescue Act funds for a connection to Windham, with a positive first meeting held. We have hired Tighe and Bond to update a sewer facilities plan. The first meeting with DEEP was held to further detail the scope of work for the plan. We believe we will get State funding of 50% of the cost of the study. This study could lead to future Federal Infrastructure funding. We continue to meet with developers and finance groups interested in the Bolton town line area. Construction for the Hytone Farm anaerobic digester project is underway. We have held several meetings to discuss a second stage to assist in food waste management and talks will continue. PZC's moratorium on cannabis retail sales is being extended to allow the Commission to review our attorney's draft regulations. The four-town Economic Vitality group is meeting to work out a regional events calendar and submitted an ARP grant for economic development consulting. We held a meeting to fine tune a proposed logo and the public is being asked for input. Cassidy Hill Vineyards was granted a special permit for events with restrictions and routine compliance evaluations. Demolition has started at the site of the new dentist office next to Dollar General. The Economic Development Commission created a subcommittee to focus on the future development at the Bolton town line. New regulations by both towns will be required. We are trying to assist the relocation of Caprilands...a buyer for the house has been found for reconstruction in New York.

#### HR issues:

We have conducted several negotiations sessions for all Town and School AFSCME groups for pension and now have revised cost estimates which will allow us to re-engage. We started negotiations with the Public Works union. We will be advertising for a Planning Assistant/Zoning Enforcement Agent, and if the Council authorizes a temporary Project Manager and part time Engineering Tech. My UCONN MPA intern has started and will help on several personnel issues (evaluations, salary study, job description, BRIC grants), programs/events, and special projects such as a community orientation guide and web site proofing. He is also assisting on a Crowd funding project through the Sustainability program to make some improvements to the band shell and nearby area. The Lion's Club will assist in getting the number of donors to match the \$7,500 grant.

Other projects:

Work is underway for the housing unit renovations at Orchard Hills under the CDBG grant. A persistent issue of lead in the water re-emerged and is being dealt with.

We received DEEP permission for work at Creaser Park. The back cabin is on a slab, and it will be gutted and converted to a storage building with a large entry door. Building permits have been issued and will start in a few weeks. We are seeking pricing from multiple vendors for demo of the front two cabins. The cabin nearest to the pavilion can be converted into public bathrooms and a small meeting space, and can be rented out with the pavilion to have a better level of service for events like weddings. It may be something to consider if ARPA money is available. The final building will be stabilized while the condition is further assessed, options discussed, and funding allocated.

The Microgrid project continues to be analyzed for financial viability and discussions are underway with a new financing partner. We held several very productive meetings, and are looking to propose ways to reduce the upfront capital expense and try to coordinate the CHS solar into the project to reduce the amount of natural gas used. CT DEEP is still supportive of the project and suggested seeking a BRIC grant ....which we did last year through Community funding programs....but now with DEEP backing we may be more successful.....they are very tough grant applications.

We are scheduling DPW for some work on the Trails grant on the Bear Swamp section of road (not the stream crossing) for this fall. Seeking outside engineering on the steam crossing.