Approved

Mont Vernon (MV) Strategic Advisory Committee

Minutes of the November 1, 2022 Meeting

The ZOOM meeting was called to order at 7pm by Paul Lavertu, Chairman. Also present were committee members: Heather Allain, Tim Angulas, Chris Blunt, Andrew Stokinger, Eileen Naber, Secretary, Stephanie Vore Apple and John Quinlan, Selectmen's Rep.

Absent were Pim Grondstra, and Sean Yamamoto.

HA moved and TA seconded that the minutes of the October 18h be approved. So voted. PL thanked PG for chairing that meeting.

PL stated that all the department heads had been interviewed by at least one member of this committee and he displayed various Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) charts showing what each department envisioned. He then asked JQ what types of documents the Selectmen wanted and when they were due. JQ stated the Planning Board (PB) wants to see the Master Plan (MP) by early December. The Selectmen want to see the skeleton CIP prior to January so they can prioritize requests and begin to inform the voter before Town Meeting in March. He also would like to put our MP in front of the residents and realize that it is preliminary.

HA asked if the town owned any empty buildings and JQ said "no". JQ said that the purchase of the Daland Library building was to provide (once the new library was built) space for the transitioning of town offices. JQ stated that one of his intensions on being a Selectman was to get MV in a path to the future in its Capital status rather than just plodding along day by day. AS stated that roughly $200,000 would be needed to get the library building up to date on handicapped access entry and bathroom facilities. Random ideas regarding other usable facilities during construction ensued. Some questioned the USPS building and/or other homes for sale in town. Nothing feasible. AS said that maybe renting office trailers will be the solution.

PL then displayed individual CIP plans for discussion. Police Chief, Mark Slavin pointed out lack of privacy is the main problem: no booking room, non-secure interview room, evidence locker only opens to main lobby that is shared with the MV Town Clerk among other problems. Complete build-out in larger facilities needed. The McCollom Building is sound and expansion there is possible. First order would to be relocation of the Town Clerk's office. JQ stated that the 2018 MV Town Buildings assessment declared McCollom Building to be sound so it could serve as the MV Police Station.

PL then displayed the MVFD CIP requests. Fire Chief, Jay Wilson, made a detailed list of all his wanted/needed future purchases. He does plan to have a Warrant Article in 2023 for a new fire truck. JQ pointed out that the actual fire department members are a stand-alone organization. The town pays for all their equipment and while an on-call department (no full-time personnel) the firemen are paid when responding to a call. JQ stated that this arrangement has been in place for many years and he would like to find the original organization agreement. He pointed out that MV and all the surrounding towns are in a mutual aid agreement. That pact allows apparatus & volunteers to help in other town's incidents. The town has fiduciary responsibility for both the fire department & the police but controls the workings of neither.

PL then displayed the MV Highway Department CIP. Ben Crosby said the salt shed really needs replacing. He can also see an additional bay added to his building about 5 years from now. He would like a large bond issue passed so that he could do all road upgrades as needed rather than just patching the worst roads each year as he is doing now. Any town vehicles running on gasoline currently refill the tanks at the state facility in Milford. That way we pay no State or Federal gas taxes.

The MV Town Hall was next. The Heritage Commission would like to see $50,000, per year, put aside so that in five years there would be enough matching funds to apply for a Grant. Total rehabilitation of the Town Hall will cost about $1,000,000. JQ says that all State & Federal Grants demand that some Town money must be included for the project. AS asked if the Town Hall has room for all town offices. JQ says only if they convert the meeting room. EN questioned if the town hall can be used for offices while being rehabilitated. That remains a question. JQ said that if the town hall is rebuilt to accommodate all town offices with the space needed the museum will have to move.

PL brought up the question as to how to move forward as a committee. He suggested splitting into two groups: one for rewriting the MP and the other to work on the CIP's. However, the consensus was that constructing the CIP's was best when using everyone's input. After discussion it was agreed that PL should continue to "clean up" the edited Master Plan (MP) the committee had been working on for two months. PL will send members updates on that revision going forward for any necessary edits.

All committee members will have input regarding the CIP's. We can suggest want over need when presented to the Selectmen. It was decided to have the next meeting VIRTUAL as there are several apps that will enable us to compare, pick and choose, define the various components for the master CIP. SVA or PL will guide some of us "non-techies" through the process.

We will meet VIRTUALLY on November 15 at 7pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Naber, Secretary

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