

Selectmen Propose Capital Budget for Roads and Bridges

Bundling projects could save \$550,000

By Vicky Mishcon
Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen propose to take advantage of the present state of the economy and the historically low interest rates to address the Town's roads and bridges. We will present a warrant article at Town Meeting asking for authority to take out a loan or bond to pay for the proposed projects.

Below is a list of projects put together during meetings with our Road Agent and Steve Liaikos, a DOT Bridge Engineer. The list includes three bridges and approximately 15 roads or sections of roads.

Bridges to be improved: Hall Farm Road Bridge, Kearsarge Mountain Road Bridge.

Bridge to be removed: Gale Road Bridge

Roads to be paved: Monticello Drive, Switch Road, Shaw Hill Road, Bay Road, and Overlook Avenue. We will also address roads in Andover, Cilleyville, and East Andover.

The Board is developing an open selection process for determining which roads have the highest priority.

The estimated total of all the projects is \$970,525 (excluding Lawrence Street). If the projects are funded and completed in 2014, as being proposed by the Board of Selectmen, the project cost will be reduced by no less than \$100,000. DOT has confirmed that a saving of at least 10% is realized by bundling projects.

The Town is currently borrowing at 1% to 1.5% for our tax anticipation notes, but for budgeting purposes (being conservative), our proposal uses a 3% interest rate.

Based on the Town's past practice of funding \$100,000 per year for road and

bridge work, it will take 10 years to deal with the proposed projects. Based on current budgeting factors used by DOT, the total project cost will exceed \$1,678,000 if the projects are completed one at a time between now and 2024, as opposed to a budget cost of \$1,000,000 if the projects are bundled into a single year. The total cost, with interest at 3%, would be \$1,109,900. That means a savings of over

What About the Lawrence Street Bridge?

The Lawrence Street Bridge is excluded from this capital budget as the total estimated cost of the project at this time exceeds \$5,000,000, and this project is awaiting federal funding. The Town will still need to fund \$1,200,000 (current estimate). The Board of Selectmen has been assured by DOT that once the project is fully designed, major cost savings will be realized.

\$550,000 from taking advantage of historically low interest rates and getting the projects all done in one year.

Making the Loan Payments

The Board proposes to meet the monthly loan payments using a DOT Highway and Bridge Block Grant estimated at \$90,000 and by taking 20% of the auto registration fees for an estimated \$70,000, for a total of \$160,000. A seven-year loan at 3% would be \$13,200 per month or \$158,400 per year.

All projects would be completed by the end of 2014 and paid for by 2021, with over \$550,000 in savings realized. The Board of Selectmen are confident that the total amount borrowed will be less than the \$1,000,000 proposed (\$879,000) and that a more accurate payoff date would be 2019. Also note the Town is currently able to borrow at just less than 1%, not the 3% used for budgeting.

Selectmen Seek Final Comments on Removal of 17 Streetlights

Projected Town savings: \$3,600 per year

By Vicky Mishcon
Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen are looking for everyone's final comments on the idea of removing the 17 streetlights listed at the end of this article. Unless any new information is presented to the Board, the streetlights listed will be removed early next year.

This initiative started with a streetlight survey by the Andover Energy Group as part of an effort to reduce energy use and save the Town of Andover on energy costs. The survey and recommendations were presented to the Board of Selectmen, who support the recommendations. The Town currently spends \$7,301 per year on streetlights. Removing about half the lights would be a savings to the taxpayers of approximately \$3,600.

The New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning (NHOEP) has long encouraged New Hampshire communities to develop plans for outdoor lighting. Some of the benefits for reducing the number of streetlights include saving energy, enhancing the rural and historical character of our town, and preserving the beauty of dark night-time skies.

Criteria for deciding whether a light should be maintained or removed included whether they are in a village center, near a Town building and/or parking lot, or at a busy intersection. The Andover Police and Fire Departments were consulted to be sure safety would not be compromised.

Some lighting is essential for traffic and pedestrian safety. The Andover Energy Group recently worked with Proctor Academy to improve traffic and pedestrian safety along Main Street in Andover Village. The

streetlights in front of Proctor Academy were old mercury lights that had dimmed over time. Since those lights were over five years old, New Hampshire Electric Co-op (NHEC) replaced them with LED streetlights at no cost to the Town. This has made a noticeable improvement in the quality of lighting in that area.

The same replacement policy applies for all the Town's streetlights; as lights are due for replacement, they will get replaced as a matter of course with more energy-efficient and downward-directed ones.

The lights the Town is recommending for removal are:

NHEC Streetlights

- Across from 41 Chase Hill Road
- Intersection of Maple Street and Tucker Mountain Road
- Intersection of Maple Street and Second Street
- Channel Road at the Town Beach
- Near the Green Crow buildings on Plains Road (currently off)
- At the low point of the east end of North Street
- At the curve in North Street behind Proctor
- Main Street, across from the old Andover Arms
- Main Street, near Bridge Street
- Bridge Street, on the sharp curve (currently off)
- Depot Street, near the Potter Place museums (currently off)
- Intersection of Cilleyville Road and Johnson Lane

PSNH Streetlights

- (All on upper Flaghole Road)
- Intersection with North Road
- Near 577 Flaghole Road
- At Hillside Orchard
- Intersection with Humphrey Road
- East of Humphrey Road

If you have any comments or questions, please contact Vicky Mishcon at 735-6402.



YOUR FOR LIVING WELL

Health care with a holistic approach – that's what Dr. Brian Frenkiewich provides his patients. An osteopathic medicine specialist, Dr. Frenkiewich is Board certified in family medicine, osteopathic manipulative treatment and neuromusculoskeletal medicine. He earned his medical degree at the University of New England, College of Osteopathic Medicine in Biddeford, ME and completed his residency in family medicine at Eastern Maine Medical Center/UNECOM in Bangor, ME.

Call 603-526-5544 for an appointment with Dr. Frenkiewich.



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