

Town of Watertown
Town Council
PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE
Regular Meeting Agenda

Date: August 10, 2026

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Watertown Town Hall

Town Council Chambers

61 Echo Lake Road

Watertown, CT 06795

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Roll Call**
- 4. Public Participation**
- 5. Minutes**
 - A. Approval of June 15, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes
- 6. Correspondence**
 - A. None
- 7. Old Business**
 - A. Paving Program (See Attached Maps)
 - B. Steele Brook Greenway #2 – Construction – Rebar/South Abutment/Paving/Bridge
 - C. Main St Watertown – T & B at 90% Design (See Attached Memo)
- 8. New Business**
 - A. St John Wall & Sidewalk
 - B. Equipment/Vehicle Purchasing Plan 2027 (See Attached Memo)
 - C. FEMA/Swift Grant – Knight St : Gowans & Knight
 - D. NVCOG – TTAC Deputy Chair
 - E. Next Public Works Subcommittee Meeting – 14 SEPT 2026
- 9. Transfers and Appropriations**
 - A. None
- 10. Adjournment**

cc: Paul Bunevich, Town Engineer
Dan Cocchiola, Town Council
Lisa Dalton, Town Clerk
Ken Demirs, PW Subcommittee
Robert Desena, PW Subcommittee Vice Chair
Michele McHugh, Vice Chair

Rachael Ryan, PW Subcommittee
Mark A. Raimo, Town Manager
Jonathan Ramsay, Town Council Chair
Robert Retallick, PW Subcommittee Chair
Mary Ann Rosa, Town Council
Carina Noyd, Town Council

Town of Watertown
Town Council
PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE
Special Meeting Minutes

Date: June 15, 2026

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Watertown Town Hall

Town Council Chambers

61 Echo Lake Road

Watertown, CT 06795

1. Call Meeting to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Subcommittee Chairperson, Robert Retallick.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present: Robert Retallick, Robert Desena, Rachael Ryan (on zoom), Dan Cocchiola

Also Present: Jerry Lukowski, Bob Grandpre, Mike Zoller

Absent: Ken Demirs

4. Public Participation

None

5. Minutes

Robert Retallick asked for approval of May 14, 2026, Meeting Minutes. Desena makes a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Dan Cocchiola. All in favor.

6. Correspondence

None

7. Old Business

A. Paving Program

Engineering staff Mike Zoller reported that the 2026 paving program remains on schedule.

- Pre-construction meeting completed with the contractor.
- Cold-in-place recycling and paving are scheduled to begin during the second week of July, starting in the northern portion of town.
- Micro surfacing is anticipated during the third week of July.
- Rubber chip sealing is tentatively planned for late July.

B. Steele Brook Greenway #2 – Construction – Subbase South/Micro Piles/Bridge

- Southern subbase work is progressing.
- Sixteen micropiles have been installed (eight per bridge abutment).
- Test piles exceeded required load testing without failure.
- Bridge fabrication is underway in Alabama with Connecticut DOT inspection.
- Micropiles extend approximately 25 feet into bedrock, providing long-term structural stability and resistance to scour.
- Construction remains on schedule for completion in the fall.
- Weston & Sampson continues construction inspection services.

C. Main St Watertown – T & B at 65 + % Design /// Heminway Design

- 90% of design plans have been submitted for review.
- Review period will last approximately 45 days.
- Current estimated construction cost is approximately \$5.8 million.
- Scope reductions will be necessary to meet available funding.
- Project improvements include:
 - Sidewalk reconstruction
 - ADA ramps
 - Decorative lighting
 - Bump-outs
 - Streetscape improvements
- Construction is anticipated to be bid in late fall/early winter with work beginning next spring.

8. New Business

A. Spring Work – Highway Superintendent

The Highway Superintendent Bob Grandpre summarized current operations.

Following the June 12 microburst storm:

- Seven major tree incidents were addressed.
- Six flooding events were responded to.
- Roads were reopened Friday evening.
- Storm debris cleanup continued into the following week.

Current Highway activities include:

- Street sweeping approximately 90% complete.
- Quarterly storm route sweeping continues.
- Meadow Crest drainage improvements are over halfway complete, including:
- Seven catch basins were installed.
- Approximately 550 feet of drainage pipe was installed.
- Roadside mowing continues.
- Catch basin cleaning continues as staffing permits.
- Pavement marking and line striping are scheduled to begin Wednesday.
- Catch basin repairs, driveway apron work, curb repairs, and pothole patching continue.

Committee members thanked Public Works, Police, and Fire personnel for their response during the severe storm event and discussed recurring flooding near Main Street and Jonathan Trumbull School.

B. PFAS/PFOS ongoing testing for perimeter and household wells at the Transfer Station

- Ongoing state-required testing continues for transfer station monitoring wells and affected residential wells.
- Additional testing requirements have increased the Public Works budget.
- Budget adjustments have already been made to accommodate the new mandate.

C. Household Hazardous Waste Event – 18 JULY 2026 – Southbury

The committee was reminded that:

- The regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event is scheduled for July 18, 2026 in Southbury.
- Information is available on the Town and Public Works websites.
- Residents may dispose of household hazardous materials at the event.

D. CCGP – Community Connectivity Grant Program – Pin Shop

Engineering staff discussed preparing the next Community Connectivity Grant application.

Proposed improvements include:

- Sidewalk construction near the Pin Shop area.
- Raised crosswalk.
- Flashing pedestrian beacons.
- Decorative street lighting.
- Project limits extending from Buckingham Road toward the town line.

Staff emphasized completing design work in advance so future grant funding can be utilized quickly once awarded.

Committee members expressed support for the project and encouraged continued public outreach regarding grant opportunities and community events.

E. MEMO: St John Wall Bid – “CCGP” – Dayton Construction

Staff reviewed the Community Connectivity Grant-funded St. John Wall project.

- Recommendation to award the project to Dayton Construction, pending Connecticut DOT approval.
- Staff indicated the apparent low bidder was not considered a qualified bidder based on documented project performance.
- Because the project is state funded, the committee determined a formal vote was unnecessary pending DOT concurrence.

The committee expressed consensus supporting staff's recommendation and requested staff proceed through the appropriate state approval process.

F. MEMO: Milling & Paving Bid – Cocchiola Paving

Staff presented bids for the Wilson Drive and Bunker Hill Avenue paving project.

The committee discussed application of the Town's hometown contractor preference.

Motion: Award the milling and paving contract for Wilson Drive and Bunker Hill Avenue to Cocchiola Paving, with Stony Brook Construction serving as subcontractor.

Second: Rachel Ryan.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

G. MEMO: Request for funds – Steele Brook Greenway Phase #3

- Project extends from the Unico Bridge to the existing pedestrian bridge.
- Includes culvert replacements, trail preparation, paving, and shoulders.
- Project is anticipated to be fully reimbursed through the Urban Act Grant Program.
- Funding request will be presented at the July 20, 2026 Town Council meeting following the required public meeting process.

Committee members commended staff for successfully advancing grant-funded projects benefiting the Town.

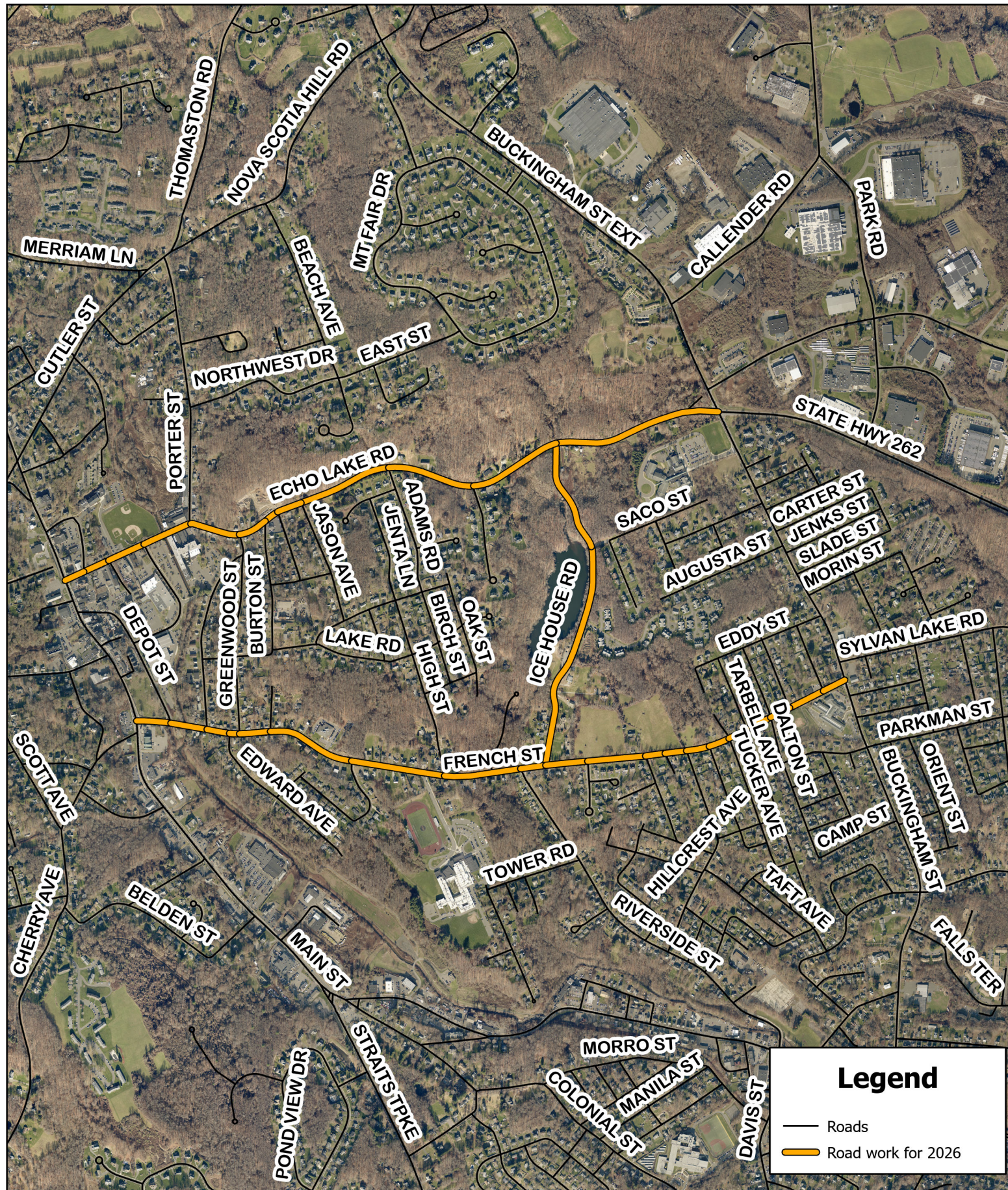
H. Next Public Works Subcommittee Meeting – 10 AUG 2026

9. Transfers and Appropriations

None

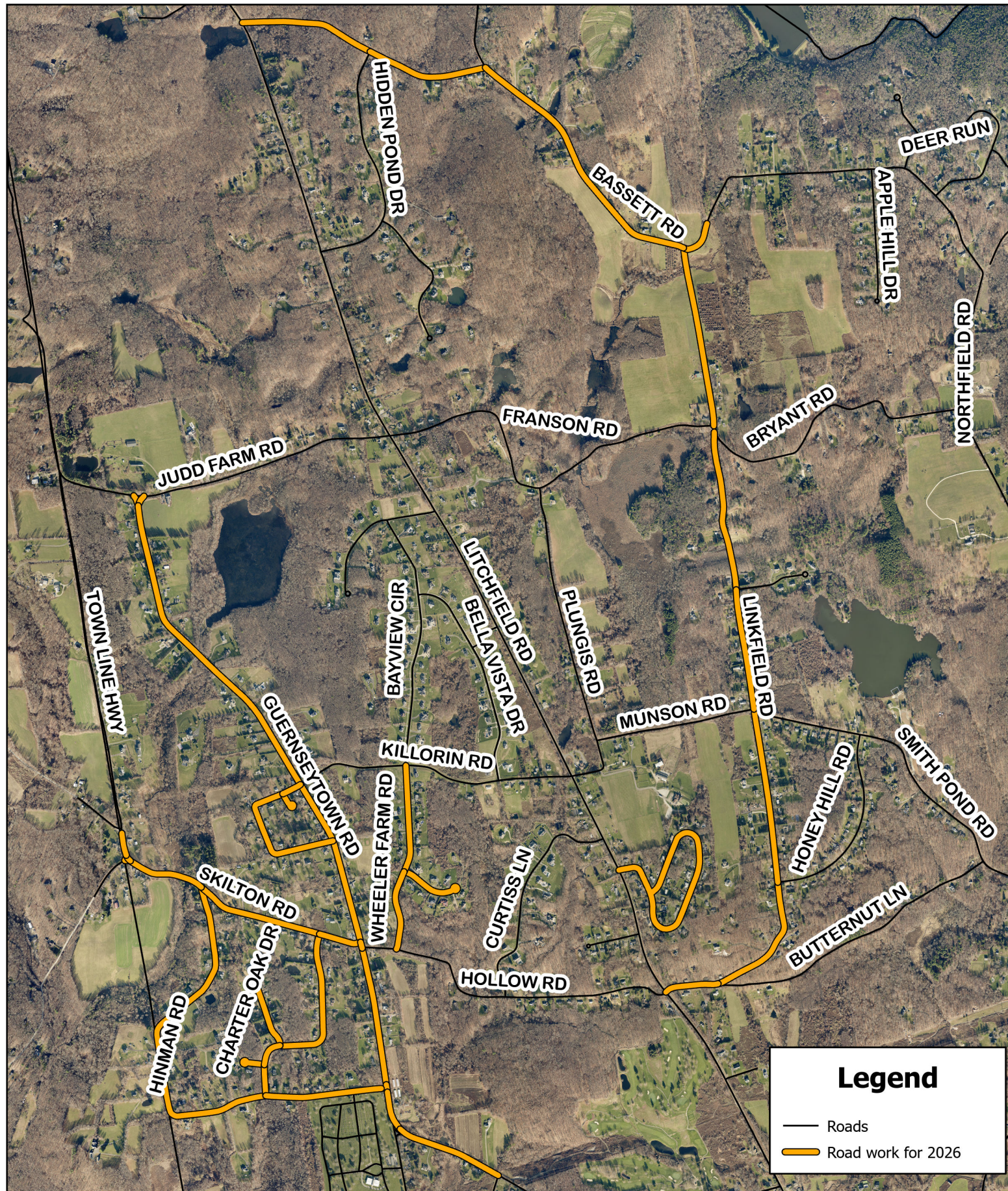
10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Robert Retallick, seconded, and approved. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:33 p.m.

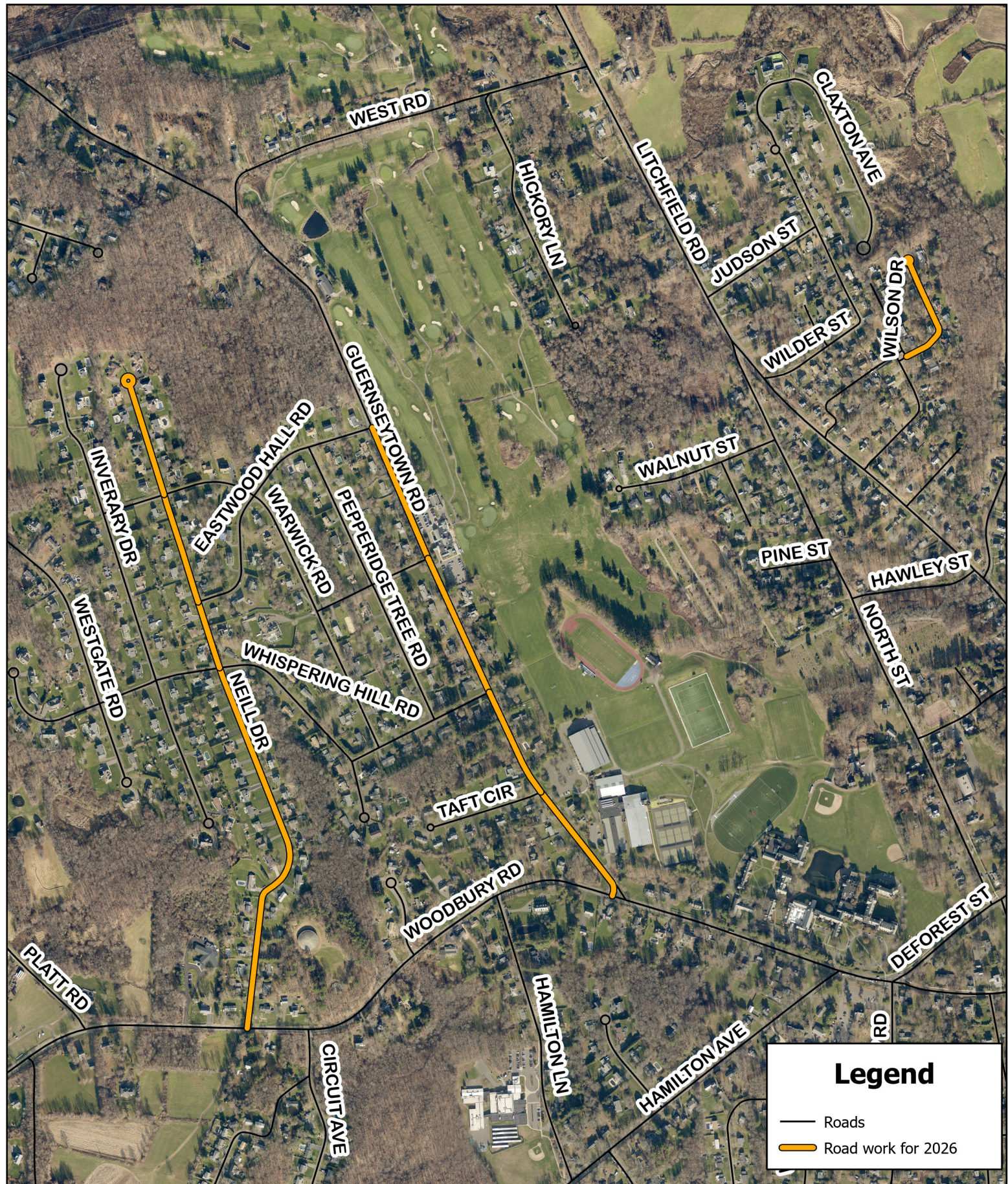


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Public Works Department
Jerry Lukowski
Director

Paul Bunevich
Town Engineer



Public Works Subcommittee
#7 Old Business - C
Watertown Town Hall
61 Echo Lake Road
Watertown, CT 06795
(860) 945-5240

www.watertownct.org

To: Mark Raimo, Town Manager
From: Jerry Lukowski, DPW Director
Date: August 8th, 2026
Subject: Main Street Complete Streets Project

State Project No. (153-127) French Street to Baldwin Street

The current (90% complete milestone) Working Cost Estimate for the Main Street Complete Streets Project is approximately \$6.2 million for the entire corridor. The federal earmark secured through Congresswoman Jahana Hayes is fixed at \$3.0 million, leaving a funding gap.

Given impending Federal deadlines, at this point, we have two choices: identify and secure additional funding to complete the full corridor or scale back the limits of the work to be constructed using the earmark funds, while deferring the remainder to a point when supplemental funding has been obtained. While reducing the scope is not my preferred option, it is the most realistic path to keep the project moving, utilize the federal funding, and make meaningful improvements to a portion of Main Street. The intent would be to complete the design for the full corridor, thus allowing for repackaging of the remaining portions with (hopefully) limited need for additional future administrative reviews or revisions by CTDOT and others.

Potential Scope Reductions

Remove Echo Lake Road to Baldwin Street - Estimated savings: \$2.4 million

Remove Atwood Street to French Street - Estimated savings: \$500,000 - This section could potentially be included as a bid alternate.

If both sections are removed, the project would be reduced to Atwood Street to Echo Lake Road with an estimated cost of approximately \$3.1 million, which is still slightly above the available federal funding.

Additional Funding Opportunities

The only way to maintain the full project scope is to secure additional funding.

Urban Act Grant (UAG)

- Would require support from our State Representative and State Senator.
- Would need to be placed on the State Bond Commission agenda.
- Would require support from the Governor's Office, OPM, and CTDOT.
- The challenge is that the Bond Commission only meets a few times each year and funding is highly competitive.

Additional Federal Earmark Funding

Work with Representative Hayes and Senators Murphy and Blumenthal to obtain additional earmark funds that could be used to fund the remainder of the construction. It may be 2028 before these funds can be awarded. Also, a Town match is needed (i.e. \$2,000,000 in earmark requires \$500,000 match).

Additional CTDOT Funding

Work through CTDOT to secure Highway Improvement Program formula funds (80% Federal / 20% State) to cover the remaining work. May be possible because it covers improvements to Route 63 but would require coordination through NVCOG and CTDOT for review and prioritization. Also, CTDOT may want to add additional work and they would control timeline.

Other Funding Sources Considered

Town of Watertown Bonding - Timing and our other infrastructure priorities in town - I don't think this is an option.

LOTICIP The Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program is not a practical option. Funding is programmed several years in advance through the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG), and all currently available funds are already committed to other projects.

Town Aid Road (TAR) The Town receives approximately \$471,000 annually. These funds are used every year for roadway and infrastructure improvements throughout town, and there is not enough capacity within the program to support this project.

Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP) The Town receives approximately \$240,000 annually. These funds are also committed to ongoing capital improvement needs and cannot support a project of this size.

Anticipated Project Schedule and Status

- Bid Ready: Fall 2026
- Project Award: Winter 2026
- Construction Start: Spring 2027

Of the seven similar municipal federal and state earmark projects that we regularly benchmark against, Watertown's project is one of the two furthest along. The project is currently at approximately 90% design completion and is approaching the bidding phase.

This progress is credited to our design consultant, Tighe & Bond, along with Mr. Brett Stark, whose project oversight and guidance have helped keep the project moving toward construction.

Recommendation

My recommendation is that we continue pursuing additional funding opportunities, particularly through an Urban Act Grant and any available CTDOT funding sources, while also preparing a reduced-scope alternative if those efforts are unsuccessful. This keeps the project on schedule, preserves the federal earmark funding, and allows us to deliver improvements to Main Street without further delay.

**Public Works Department
Jerry Lukowski
Director**

**Paul Bunevich
Town Engineer**



Public Works Subcommittee
#8 New Business - B
**Watertown Town Hall
61 Echo Lake Road
Watertown, CT 06795
(860) 945-5240**

www.watertownct.org

To: Mark Raimo, Town Manager
From: Jerry Lukowski, DPW Director
Date: August 8th, 2026
Subject: Highway Dept Vehicle and Equipment Purchase Program Plan FY 2027

The Town's current fleet is significantly older than both statewide municipal fleets and the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) fleet. The advanced age of our vehicles and equipment has resulted in increasing maintenance costs, more frequent repairs, and a higher number of breakdowns during winter snow and ice operations.

Equipment failures during snow events directly affect our ability to maintain safe roadways and provide the level of service our residents expect. Replacing aging vehicles with newer equipment will improve reliability, reduce maintenance expenditures, and provide the benefit of manufacturer warranties, typically covering the first five years of service.

Fleet Age Comparison

- Watertown Highway Fleet Average Age: 17 Years
- Statewide Municipal Fleet Average Age: 12 Years
- CTDOT Fleet Average Age:
 - Trucks: 8 Years
 - Equipment: 5 Years

FY 2027 Vehicle Purchase Plan

Vehicle - Quote for FY 27 Purchases	Vehicle ID	Price
Dyna-4 Cab Tractor	Mower 1	\$ 196,221
2026 Chevrolet Reg CAB 2500 4x4	H5	\$ 51,125
2026 Chevrolet Reg CAB 2500 4x4	H7	\$ 51,125
2026 Chevrolet 3500 Reg CAB 4x4	H1	\$ 94,451
Freightliner 114SD Single Axle Plow Truck	T6	\$ 343,629
Freightliner 114SD Axle Axle Plow Truck w/ Wing	T12	\$ 366,911
	Total	\$ 1,103,463

The proposed FY 2027 Vehicle Purchase Program was presented during the recent budget development process and is consistent with the Town's long-term fleet planning efforts.

A comprehensive replacement strategy is outlined in a document titled:

"Fleet Replacement and Lifecycle Management Plan - FY 2026-2027 through FY 2051."

The FY 2027 plan focuses on replacing the most critical vehicles within the Highway Department fleet to improve operational reliability and reduce future maintenance costs.

Proposed Funding Sources - The following funding sources are proposed:

- Capital Equipment Balance Fund: \$321,000
- FEMA Holding Account: \$479,000
- Total Funding Available: \$800,000

The Finance Office is currently reviewing the FEMA Holding Account and confirming the amount available for use. The Town received approximately \$1.3 million in FEMA reimbursements during the previous year, with portions of those funds reimbursing accounts that were originally used to complete storm-related repairs.

Using the available \$800,000, the Town would purchase the first five vehicles outright without financing.

The sixth vehicle (last vehicle on the list), identified as Vehicle ID T12, would be financed as follows:

- Down Payment: \$63,000
- Amount Financed: \$307,000
- Financing Term: 4 Years
- Interest Rate: 5%

The estimated annual debt service would be approximately \$86,000 per year.

Long-Term Considerations - Utilizing funds from the Capital Equipment Account for these vehicle replacements will limit the Town's flexibility for future large equipment purchases. Specific concern remains with the replacement of the Gradall and Paving Box (Both 27+ years)

The current assumption is that these larger equipment replacements would be addressed through a future municipal capital bond authorization rather than through the Capital Equipment Account.

Recommendation

Given the age and condition of the Highway Department fleet, proceeding with the FY 2027 Vehicle Purchase Program will improve reliability, reduce maintenance costs, decrease operational downtime, and enhance the Town's ability to provide critical services, especially during winter operations.

The proposed funding approach allows the Town to replace six priority vehicles while limiting the amount of borrowing required for a single vehicle purchase.