

Fairfield Town Council
Public Hearing to Obtain Public Comments on a Capital Improvement Plan
Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Members present: Mayor Loren Tacke; Council Members: Ron Dauwalder, Carmen Staigmiller, Scott Hoyt and Chuck Brown; Public Works, Chuck Dale; and Clerk/Treasurer, Tammy Comer.

Others present: Jeremiah Theys, Great West Engineering via phone; Vonnie Jacobson, Choteau Acantha.

Community Members present: Toni Underdal, Sue Kendal, Justin Cleveland, Pam Brown, Sylvia Waters, Gary Waters, Bob Loss, Mary Coe, and Bill Coe.

Public hearing opened at 6:15 pm by Mayor Tacke.

Jeremiah Theys explained that the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was prepared by Great West Engineering, the CIP committee, the town employees, the Mayor, and the public. Mailers, and surveys were sent out for public comment, advertisements were sent to the newspaper, posts were uploaded to Face Book and the website seeking input from the public as to what they wanted to see for improvements in Fairfield. The CIP is categorized by sections, with timing, cost and funding for each project. The CIP consists of sixty projects costing approximately \$39,000,000. The Town and the CIP committee set the top ten priorities in hopes to complete those projects first. Mr. Theys stated that the CIP is a plan that should be reviewed and updated yearly. The CIP also helps with receiving grant funding for projects. Mr. Theys asked for comments or questions from the public and council.

Councilor Staigmiller asked how the CIP needed to be updated. Mr. Theys stated that the CIP needed to be updated by resolution with any new items or completed items.

Mr. Theys stated that once the resolution was passed approving the Capital Improvement Plan, they will email and mail the approved Plan to the Town and send the draw request for grant funding reimbursement.

Mrs. Comer explained that the legislature enacted HB 355, State-Local Infrastructure Partnership Act (SLIPA) funding infrastructure for cities and towns. Montana will receive \$20 million of which Fairfield is eligible to receive up to \$64,500. The money can only be used for repairs of water, sewer, streets, storm water, fire suppression, and public grounds. There is a twenty-five percent match of the entire project. Guidelines are still being worked out and a few of the deadlines will be approaching rather quickly. Discussions, priorities, and public hearings are to be completed by December 31, 2023. Requesting applications are to be submitted by March 30, 2024 and the project needs to be completed by December 31, 2027. Mrs. Comer asked the council to look through the CIP and see if there would be a project they would like to use this money on.

With no other questions, Mayor Tacke closed the Capital Improvement Plan public hearing at 6:25 pm.

Loren B. Tacke, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tammy L. Comer, Clerk/Treasurer