

Apr 14 2022 12:52 pm



City of Fitchburg Massachusetts 01420

CITY COUNCIL

Councilors at Large

Marcus L. DiNatale
Sally H. Cragin
Amy L. Green
Samantha M. Squailia
Anthony M. Zarrella

President

Anthony M. Zarrella

Vice President

Andrew J. Van Hazinga

Ward Councilors

Ward 1 – Bernard J. Schultz, III
Ward 2 – Paul R. Beauchemin
Ward 3 – Andrew J. Couture
Ward 4 – Andrew J. Van Hazinga
Ward 5 – Marisa R. Fleming
Ward 6 – Derrick J. Cruz

Finance Committee

A meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order by Councilor DiNatale on Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 6:02 PM in the Legislative Building, 700 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA.

Committee Members present: Councilors Paul Beauchemin, Derrick Cruz, Marcus DiNatale, Andrew Van Hazinga, and Anthony Zarrella.

Committee Members absent: None.

The chairman read an announcement regarding the recording of public meetings, noting that FATV was recording and broadcasting the meeting. No other person stated that they were recording the meeting.

The chairman opened the meeting for public comment. No one spoke.

064-22 LOAN ORDER: appropriating \$2,750,000.00 to pay the cost of demolishing the existing and constructing a new Oak Hill Water Storage Tank in the city as outlined in the enclosed Order.

Discussion: Deputy Water Commissioner John Deline was present. He reported that the Oak Hill Storage Tank needs to be replaced. It was installed in the 1960's. While the department has tried to make repairs, the instability of the underlying bedrock has made it difficult and they are continuing to experience water loss. A new tank will be built in the same location by pouring concrete into the bedrock. It is a difficult process because of the location and non-standard shape. However, it was the best solution among the various alternatives they studied. Mr. Deline anticipates receiving SRF funding to help with the costs. There will also be some minor work done on the other tanks. The work is scheduled to begin after July 1st and will take about a year. While the lack of a tank may affect fire service because of a lack of water storage capacity, other water services will be maintained during construction.

Councilors asked if the enterprise fund could afford the debt service. Mr. Deline said this project is the last one that can be funded with current water rates. The department is currently working on a rate study. Councilors asked if the new tank would affect some of the old infrastructure within the water system. Mr. Deline said that the tank needs to be replaced to avoid a failure, but that while the water pressure may be a little higher, it should not be enough to affect the piping in the area. Councilors noted that the new tank will also eliminate the cost associated with losing water from the leaky tank. Councilors asked how long the tank will last. Mr. Deline said that it will probably last about 100 years.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Van Hazinga, second by Councilor Zarrella, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #064-22.

089-22 RESOLUTION: A Resolution pertaining to a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services, Drinking Water Supply Protection (DWSP) Grant Program as outlined in the enclosed Resolution.

Discussion: The chairman announced that he was taking Item #089-22 out of order. Mr. Deline remained. The chairman read the resolution. Mr. Deline stated that this resolution concerns the Kerlinger property in Ashburnham that the North County Land Trust has been working with the owners on obtaining a conservation restriction. He then reviewed the handout and budget. The landowners are willing to donate part of the conservation restriction. The city will receive a 50% grant for the cost and will have to pay the other half plus other costs. The city is also pursuing an agriculture restriction on the property. The local share of the costs will come from the Water Enterprise Fund Balance Reserve for Land Purchases. These funds were generated from an earlier sale of land restrictions to the state.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Zarrella, second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Resolution #089-22.

065-22 ORDER: that there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of ONE MILLION, FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$1,400,000.00) same to be charged against AVAILABLE FUNDS and credited to FIRE DEPARTMENT CAPITAL, VEHICLE REPLACEMENT for the purchase of a new ladder truck.

Discussion: Fire Chief Dante Suarez, Captain Patrick Roy, and Captain John Gilmartin were present. Chief Suarez reported that Ladder 2 had been taken in for repairs and was found to be beyond repair. The department needs two ladder trucks and is asking for a new one.

Councilors asked why the ladder truck is so much more than the pumpers were. Chief Suarez said that the ladder truck is twice the size and weight of the pumpers. Councilors asked about the life of a new ladder truck. The chief thought it would be about ten years, rather than the twenty year life of the current ladder truck. Part of the reason is that there are a lot more electronics on the new vehicles which age more quickly. Lead time on the vehicle is about eighteen months, so the department will use a ladder truck being loaned by the City of Boston. The value in the old truck is for salvage.

Councilors asked about the Wow factor on the new ladder truck. Captain Gilmartin said that while the vehicle has a lot of computers and electronics, the ladder itself is hydraulic. The

department went back to a more basic truck which is slightly smaller than the current ladder truck. The ladder height is 110 feet, which will reach about 10 stories. The smaller size will allow the new truck to better fit city streets and neighborhoods.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Zarrella, second by Councilor Cruz, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #065-22.

066-22 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act, Funds Available for Projects in the approximate amount of \$50,000.00 (FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to cover the additional hours spent by the Community Development Department on ARPA compliance and administration.

Discussion: Community Development Director Tom Skwierawski was present. He stated that the city has approved the first round of ARPA funding and must now meet certain compliance requirements about how the money is being spent. Many other communities are hiring consultants to do the administrative work. The plan here is for the city to move a part-time Community Development employee from part-time to full-time and rearrange the work load within the department, because they are familiar with federal requirements and with working with sub-recipients. Part of the plan is also to maintain continuity with the Planning Department in light of a possible retirement.

Councilors asked about the burden of meeting federal reporting requirements and were told that there is quarterly reporting being required by the US Treasury Department. Councilors asked how long the \$50,000 would cover. City Auditor Calvin Brooks said that the \$50,000 was a starting point, given that the ARPA reporting will continue until at least 2026 and there is a lot of work involved. Depending on spending, there will likely be a request for additional funds at some future date. Councilors asked about what happens when the ARPA funds run out. Mr. Skwierawski said he would like to be able to show a benefit to the city in having this position so that the choice is easy.

Councilors asked about charging grantees for the administrative piece. Mr. Skwierawski reminded the councilors that these grantees are providing a service to the city and that more than likely they would simply increase their requests to cover the costs.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Van Hazinga, second by Councilor Zarrella, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #066-22.

067-22 ORDER: that there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$55,000.00) same to be charged against AVAILABLE FUNDS and credited to BUILDING DEPARTMENT, VEHICLE REPLACEMENT for the purpose of replacing an inspection vehicle.

Discussion: The chairman reviewed the justification for the vehicle as put forth in the letter. Councilors noted that the original request was for a hybrid vehicle, but that the cost could be reduced because the Green Communities requirements could be met without a hybrid vehicle.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Cruz, second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to hold Order #067-22 in committee.

On a motion made by Councilor Beauchemin, second by Councilor Zarrella, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

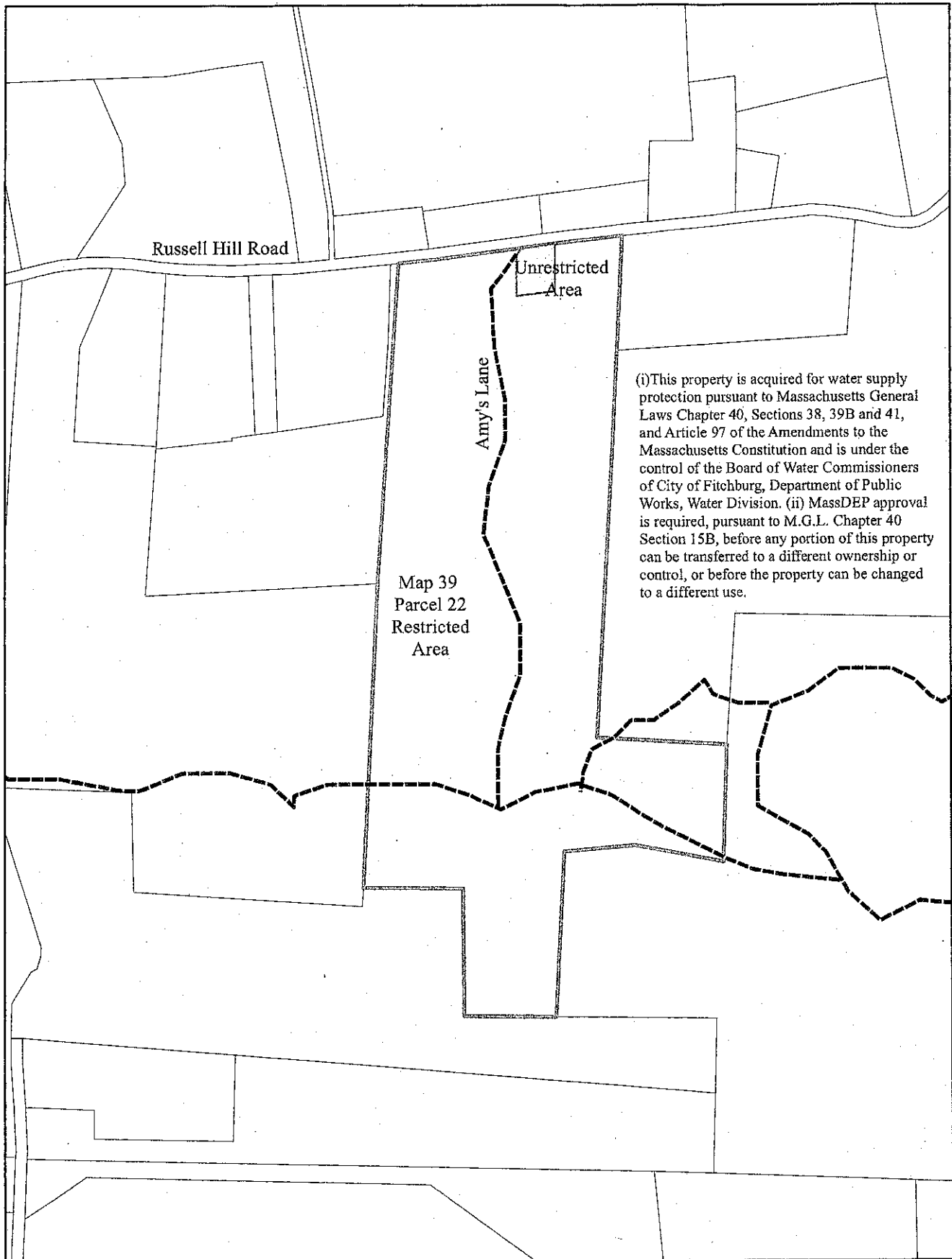
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Calvin D. Brooks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Calvin D. Brooks, Clerk

City of Fitchburg
Available Funds Summary
Fiscal Year 2022

Available Funds Certified as of July 1, 2021			8,682,198
Less Approved Appropriations:			
12/07/21	201-21	Stabilization Fund	-350,000
12/07/21	202-21	OPEB Trust Fund	-450,000
12/07/21	203-21	Reserve for Other Municipal Purposes, Capital Expenses	-125,000
12/07/21	204-21	School Expenses	-600,000
12/07/21	207-21	Police Maintenance of Buildings, Repair & Care	-8,380
12/21/21	208-21	Health Expense, Weights & Measures	-16,750
12/21/21	209-21	Library Trust Fund, Wallace Fund	-31,320
12/21/21	218-21	Facilities, Tax Possession Maintenance	-9,000
02/15/22	011-22	Law Other Expenses, Litigation and Special Counsel	-115,000
02/15/22	021-22	Law Other Expenses, Appraisals	-10,700
Subtotal - Approved Appropriations			-1,716,150
Balance Available			6,966,048
Less Proposed Appropriations:			
04/05/22		Fire, Ladder Truck	-1,400,000
04/05/22		Building, Vehicle Replacement	-65,000
Subtotal - Proposed Appropriations			-1,465,000
Balance Available If Proposed Appropriations are Approved			5,511,048
Possible Appropriations:			
Snow & Ice			
Stabilization Fund 5% - \$6,974,000 7% - \$9,764,000 Current - \$7,517,897			
OPEB Fund Current - \$1,997,632			
Labor Contracts			
Veterans - Cash Benefits			
Community Development - Rail Trail			
Main Street Garage - Phase 1			
Salary Study			
Crocker Field			
DPW - Equipment List			
DPW - Paving			
Library Renovation			
Schools - Longsjo School - Window Replacement			
Police Station Renovation			
Senior Center Renovation			
Demolition			
Demolition - Laurel Street School			
Police - Vehicles			
Fire - Vehicles			
Marketing City			
Cemetery Software			
Cemetery - Vehicles			
Cemetery - Masoleum			
Cemetery - Engineering & Design for Expansion			
Cemetery - Construction for Expansion			
Parks - Downtown Summer Groundskeeper			
DPW - Oak Hill Road Bridge			
DPW - Street Paving			

Kerlinger CR Assessors Map



Legend

- CR Exclusion
- Assessors Parcels
- Kerlinger CR
- Trail

0 0.05 0.1 Miles





Source: MassGIS
February 2022



Kerlinger CR Locus Map with DEP Zones



Legend

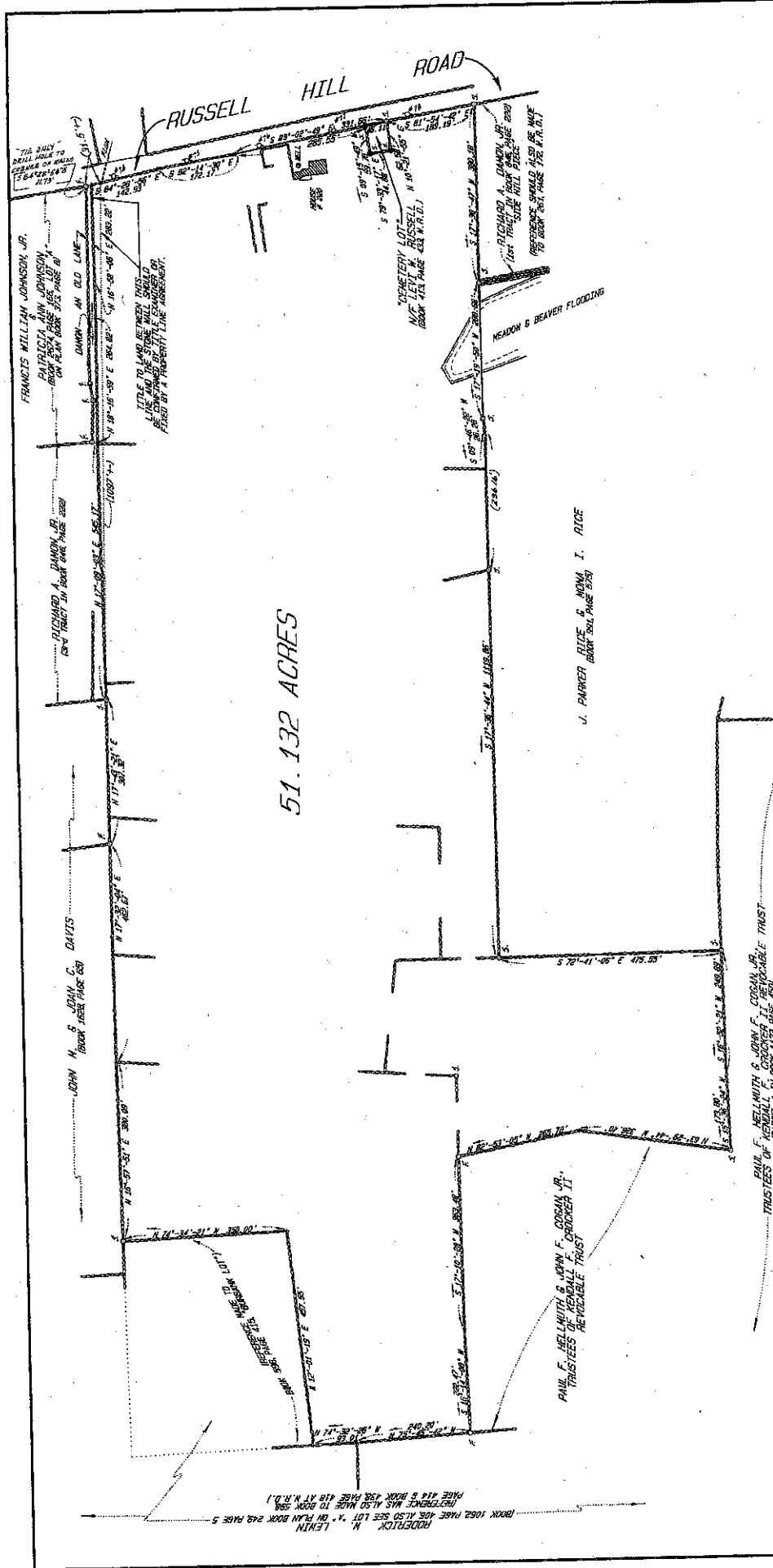
-  Kerlinger CR
-  Zone A
- Zone C

0 0.5 1 Miles

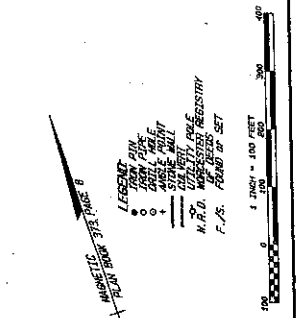
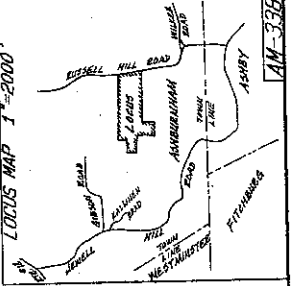


Source: MassGIS
February 2022





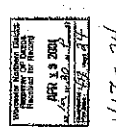
51.132 ACRES



CHAPTER 300 ACTS OF 1966
 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN
 SHOWS THE BOUNDARIES OF THE
 LOTS AND THE BOUNDARIES OF THE
 STREETS AND WAYS SHOWN AND THE
 AREA AND THE AREA OF EACH LOT
 AND THE AREA OF EACH STREET AND
 WAY SHOWN AND THE AREA OF EACH
 EXISTING ENCUMBRANCE OR FOR NEW
 ENCLAVES AS SHOWN.
 SIGNED: REGISTRAR OF DEEDS
 DATE: APRIL 3, 2001



I CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN
 COMPLIES WITH THE RULES AND
 REGULATIONS OF THE COMMONWEALTH
 OF MASSACHUSETTS.
 FOR REGISTRY USE ONLY



PLAN OF LAND
 SURVEYED FOR
**HERBERT O. & ELEANOR M.
 (BURBANK) KERLINGER**
 OWNER: ELEANOR M. (BURBANK) KERLINGER / BOOK 268A PAGE 312
 ASHBURNHAM, MA
 APRIL 3, 2001 SZOC SUBDIVISION
 32 PLEASANT ST., GARDNER, MA

417-21

Kerlinger Conservation Restriction

DETAILED BUDGET FOR KERLINGER CR PURCHASE (49.43 ACRES)		
REIMBURSABLE ACQUISITION COSTS		
CR purchase	Appraised Value	273,000.00
Title work	Estimate	1,000.00
Recording fees	2 x 120 (CR and Exclusion)	120.00
Survey	Estimate	4,000.00
Baseline Documentation	Estimate	1,500.00
Subtotal Direct Costs - Reimbursable Acquisition Costs		279,620.00
NON-REIMBURSABLE ACQUISITION COSTS		
Appraisal	Actual	4,100.00
Municipal Lien Certificate	Municipal Lien Certificate	50.00
Closing Attorney	Estimate	1,500.00
Project Management North County Land Trust	85 hours @ \$70/hour	6,020.00
Signage	Req by state grant	300.00
Subtotal Indirect Costs -Stewardship, Admin		11,970.00
PROJECT EXPENSE TOTALS		291,590.00
REVENUE FORECAST		
Grant Request	Drinking Water Supply Grant (50% CR Appraised Value, Title Recording, Survey, Baseline)	139,810.00
Landowner Donation	Value from bargain Sale of CR	56,500.00
Total Revenue		196,310.00
City of Fitchburg Contribution		
	City of Fitchburg, Water Supply Funds towards CR purchase price	80,000.00
	Unreimbursable Acquisition Costs	11,970
	50% Match Acquisition Costs	3,310
Total Fitchburg Contribution		95,280
Total Project Revenue		291,590.00