



**PLANNING BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
TOWN OF FOSTER
Benjamin Eddy Bldg., 6 South Killingly Rd., Foster, RI
Wednesday, January 16, 2008, 7:30 p.m.**

A. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Julia Parmentier, Chair

B. Roll Call

Present were Julia Parmentier, Chair; Pat Moreau, Vice-Chair; Helen Hardy, Secretary; John Neale, and Tom Mercier. Don Moyer and Michael Carpenter were excused. Also in attendance were Ann-Marie Ignasher, Town Planner; Randy Rossi, Town Treasurer; Robert Clarkin, Public Works Director; Robert Coyne, Police Chief; John Lewis, Vice-President Town Council; Robert Wallace, Superintendent and Joe McGovern, Building & Grounds Director, for the Captain Isaac Paine Elementary School.

C. Approval of Minutes

None

D. Correspondence

None

E. Board Member's Report

John Neale reported that the Land Trust put out an RFP (Request for Proposals) for property maintenance; these will be received and opened in March.

F. Planner's Report

The planner reported that 36 people attended the recent Economic Development Seminar and that there will be an article covering the seminar in the January 21st edition of Providence Business News.

G. Administrative Subdivisions

None.

H. Minor Subdivisions

None

I. Major Subdivisions

None

J. Non-Commercial Site Review

None.

K. Old Business

None.

L. New Business

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET

School Department: - \$ 65,000.00

Superintendent Wallace and Joe McGovern from the Isaac Paine School, presented their requests to the Planning Board as follows:

1. Roof repairs - \$25,000.00
2. Paving the parking spaces in front of the Isaac Paine School - \$15,000.00 (The ownership of this area is in question, a portion of the area is owned by RI DOT as part of Route 94. The Town Solicitor is dealing with this matter).
3. Completion of digital controls for the school's heating system - \$25,000.00

Discussion:

Regarding the roof, a portion was replaced in 1996, 1997 and 2005; the oldest part is being replaced. The work done in 1996 and 1997 has a 10 year warranty; the work done in 2005 has a 15 year warranty. The replacement of the oldest section will also have a 15 year warranty. The second phase of work will probably be next year.

Regarding the digital heating controls, these were approved two years ago, but there was not enough money to do the whole building. This would complete the building; the new boiler and hot water system are out to bid, and will all be compatible.

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Tax Assessor: - \$40,000.00

1. Requests \$40,000.00 to complete the second part of the reevaluation.

Discussion:

The Board discussed whether or not the Tax Assessor's information should be online, or whether or not the names of the landowners should be included if the information was available on line or there was a question of public safety.

Police Department: - \$26,409.00

1. Chief Coyne eliminated the DARE officer, as it should not be a capital expense.
2. Lease of Cars or third payment (last); the next cycle will begin the purchase of another three cars.

Discussion:

The Board felt that this request was self-explanatory, and no further explanation was needed.

Department of Public Works: - \$368,000.00

1. Police Station or Window replacement, thermal glass which will be historically compatible with the Alysworth House.
2. Police Station or Replacement of the 1983 boiler with a modern, more efficient and reliable boiler.
3. Police Station or Replacement of the 1979 roof which is now leaking. It was suggested that there be consideration of insulation of the attic and prevention of ice dams; also that shingles with a longer warranty be used.
4. Nike Site or The building that houses the Northwest Special Education offices or Robert Clarkin had gotten estimates on the roof and felt \$40,000.00 was sufficient.
5. Isaac Paine School or Matching funds for the emergency generator for the Captain Isaac Paine School as the Town's emergency shelter. This will be compatible with the current electrical system.
6. Town House or Matching grant for work on the interior of the Town House; walls, floors and ceiling work.
7. Public Works Garage or New roof on the old building, new break room and a new roof on the old salt shed; new salt shed from the 2007 budget.
8. Highway and Road paving or Discussion regarding various roads within the community, talked about the necessity to create a manageable program. Currently, there are engineers reviewing the status of our roads.
9. Bridges or talked about the replacement of at least one bridge within the community.

Engineering Board: - \$130,000.00

1. A problem exists in purchasing vehicles over a three year period when the Charter only allows a two year encumbrment of funds. This presentation was made at the 1/2/08 meeting.

Planning Department: - \$15,000.00

1. The planning department made a request for \$15,000.00 to hire consultants to prepare educational literature regarding the Route 6 re-zoning, affordable housing, and conservation planning ordinances.

Discussion:

During discussion of this proposal, the Town Treasurer Randy Rossi informed the Planning Board and the Town Planner that there were enough funds remaining in the current capital improvement budget funds to cover such community outreach and education programs. Once the Planner and the Planning Board learned of this or it was agreed by all that the Planning Department request was no longer necessary and therefore withdrawn.

Town Clerk - No Request

Building and Zoning Official or No Request

Recreation Board or No Request

Land Trust or No Request

Conservation Commission or No Request

Planning Board Review of Capital Budget Requests

After all of the capital requests were presented, the Planning Board reviewed each one in more detail in order to create a reasonable and acceptable figure to present to the Town Council.

Chairman Julia Parmentier and Secretary Helen Hardy tallied all of the requests for a total of \$874,409.00. All the Board Members were in general agreement that changes would have to occur. Chairman Julia Parmentier asked the Treasurer Randy Rossi what would be a reasonable figure that the Town could possibly accommodate. Mr. Rossi responded the figure should not go beyond \$720,000.00 - \$725,000.00.

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|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Original Totals (inclusive) | \$ 864,409.00 |
| Capital Budget Cap (per Treasurer) | \$ 725,000.00 |
| | ===== |
| Budget Requests must be reduced by | \$ 140,000.00 |

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Suggestions to Reduce as follows:

1. Reduce the Engineering request by \$130,000.00 ó The suggestion was to divide emergency vehicle payments over a two year time period. This means we recommend they get \$130,000.00 rather than \$260,000.00. The following year we recommend increasing the allocation from \$130,000.00 to \$195,000.00 to purchase Engine Four over the two years period allowed under the Town's Charter.
2. Reduce the Planning Board request by \$15,000.00 ó Totally eliminate this request.
3. Reduce the School Department request by \$5,000.00 ó The figures were not substantiated.

New Total Capital Budget Request then would be \$724,409.00

Pat Moreau moved, John Neale seconded to recommend to the Town Council a Capital Budget of \$724,409.00, motion carried unanimously.

Julia Parmentier will write the letters to the Town Council and the Department heads and explain the Board's decisions. Ann -Marie Ignasher and Randy Rossi will call Tom Walden and explain the change regarding the Engineering Board's request, to accommodate the proper accounting principles set forth in the Town Charter.

M. Future Agenda Items

None

N. Adjournment

Tom Mercier moves to adjourn at 9:58pm, and then Tom withdraws his motion when someone requests to make a recommendation for a future agenda item.

O. Future Agenda Items

- Blackmar Residential Compound

P. Adjournment

Tom Mercier moved to adjourn at 10:01pm, motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Hardy
Secretary