

PLANNING BOARD
RECORD OF MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS
January 30, 2007

The Planning Board of the Town of Weymouth held a public meeting on Tuesday, January 30, 2007, at 7:30pm at McCulloch Building, Whipple Center Conference Room, 182 Green Street, Weymouth, MA

Present: Walter Flynn, Vice Chairperson
 Mary Akoury, Clerk
 Sandra Williams
 Frank Hawkins
Not Present: Paul Hurley
Staff: Rod Fuqua, Principal Planner
 James Keefe
Recording Secretary: Janet Murray

Walter Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Jim Wilson, CFO – Update

Mr. Wilson gave an overview of projects:

- School projects - roofs on Hamilton and Adams, masonry work at Pingree, and waterproofing at Chapman. There was also enough money to redo the parking lot at Nash.
- Roofing projects on town owned buildings - DPW building work has been completed. Inside work is currently being done. Work on Fire Station 1 and 2 is in the planning stage. If there is money remaining more capital projects will be done. Mr. Wilson stated that he did not think that there would be much if anything left from the \$1.35 million bond.

\$1.2 million bond was let a year ago for boilers at Chapman School. The project is complete. The bond payments are being made with LNR Host Community Agreement (HCA) money. It will be due in eight (8) months.

Mr. Wilson stated that other capital projects include:

- A great deal of work on the town's parks, Legion Field (\$5 and \$6 million in this budget cycle).
- Great Pond Water Treatment Plant is at the pre bid qualification stage (\$35 million - water department bond).
- A new library at Libby Field is being considered; site details are being looked at.
- A ladder truck has been taken out of service and the town is looking to procure this through normal channels. A measure will probably be going to Council in mid February for 1st payment of the bond.

Mr. Wilson stated that Free Cash stands at \$1 million. He noted that snow removal has been non-existent and the hope is that there will not be a snow removal deficit. Immediate capital needs exist at DPW, police vehicles, and the ladder as mentioned.

Capital Improvement Plan

Information Technology

Jim Limbey and David Cawthorne appeared before the Board.

Mr. Limbey stated that the town wide communications project would cost approximately \$1.8 million. He noted that they are looking at doing this in conjunction with other communities. Evaluation is on going.

Dispatch options are still being reviewed. A decision is expected in the next few weeks. Estimated cost could be as high as \$750,000.

GIS flyover for the town is needed as aerial data is almost 10 years old. The plan is to have this done this year.

Hardware replacement cycle for PC's and service is \$50,000 per year.

A network disaster recovery for the MUNIS system if something should happen to the main server is being considered.

LAN wiring for Johnson School is the number one priority for the School Department. This building is no longer only an early childhood center. There are other town employees using the facility.

Teacher work stations for K-4 are outdated and need to be updated.

Computer lab upgrades for primary and middle schools is on a four year cycle. There is a need to keep this technology up-to-date.

Connectivity of Hamilton School and Murphy School is needed. These schools are currently on a T-1 system.

Phone system upgrades are need for all schools except the High School and Academy Avenue. Most of the school's phone technology is next to impossible to repair. Chapman and Johnson School's systems had to be replaced. However, the classroom phones were not replaced.

Mrs. Akoury asked how many schools currently have work stations. Mr. Cawthorne stated that every school classroom has technology in it. He noted that the high school has the most current technology. The middle schools are up-dated.

The IT Department has three employees with 2500 computers to maintain.

Mr. Limbey stated that they are looking at a computer system that can pull up the camera on the screen. Mr. Flynn asked if the doors to the schools are alarmed. Mr. Cawthorne replied that some are but most are not.

Mr. Cawthorne noted that vandalism has dropped dramatically at the High School as the video surveillance has been very helpful in catching those responsible.

Administration

Carolyn LaCroix appeared before the Board. She stated that the vehicles listed are mostly requests that have appeared in prior years and continue to appear this year. She noted that an awarded grant from October of 2005 is pending.

Mr. Flynn asked why pickup trucks are being requested. Ms. LaCroix noted that they are generally used for hauling things. She noted that snow plow attachments have been useful to avoid using contractors.

Ms. Williams asked about Homeland Security mandates. Ms. LaCroix stated that since 9/11, routine patrols have been required to be used as a deterrent.

Ms. LaCroix stated that Emergency Management has been involved in the planning for the new communication system so that all personnel are able to communicate. Currently, the town departments are not all on the same frequency.

Building and Grounds projects include replacement of McCulloch Building air conditioning units. The Mayor has this on the list for future LNR HCA funding. Classrooms and offices have window units.

Building renovations for 55 Hollis Street do not have a dollar amount because of the extensive nature of the project. The building inspector has toured the building. This building is still utilized but extensive repairs are on hold.

Mr. Flynn noted that the fire chief has indicated that he is interested in looking at this building for future fire coverage in South Weymouth.

The Teen Center has been open for eight years and carpeting needs to be replaced especially in the snack area. Also, the roof is in need of repair at an estimated cost of \$5000. This is set for the next fiscal year.

The recreation division houses many outdoor programs such as the Wey-Rec program during the summer. These programs are housed at O'Sullivan Field and the Wessagussett School. Options for an approximately 60' wide by 120' long outdoor pavilion are being considered. This project is in the exploratory stage. The cost is estimated at \$100,000 to \$175,000.

Mr. Flynn asked if the Recreation Commission is on board. Ms. LaCroix stated that it has not been discussed with them yet but it will most likely be brought up at their meeting tomorrow night.

Community Preservation Committee (CPC) funding will be explored by Administration and Community Services for new recreation initiatives. It was noted that the CPC will meet at the Town Hall building on February 8, 2007.

Mr. Hawkins asked about the age of the Teen Center roof. Ms. LaCroix stated that she was unsure how old the roof is but the repairs have held up well.

Library

Joanne LaMothe stated that the proposed new library design, development, and construction are currently in the feasibility study schematic design phase. Funding has come from the Library Incentive Grant and Municipal Utilization Grant. This part of the project's cost is \$125,000. The purpose is to determine if Libby Field is an appropriate location for the building.

Once this is determined, the schematic design phase would begin. \$250,000 will be needed for the design development stage. The proposal is for a 52,000 square foot library to be completed by the summer of 2010.

Ms. Williams asked if the other libraries will be kept open. Ms. LaMothe stated that she is waiting on the findings of the feasibility study. She did note that the Pratt Library will no longer be needed. The Tufts Library will be vacated. A final disposition of the North Weymouth Branch has yet to be determined.

Ms. LaMothe noted that if the current proposal moves forward, the new building would be within walking distance for the two middle schools.

Ms. Akoury asked about a playground facility. Ms. LaMothe stated that this will be considered.

Ms. Akoury asked if any other sites have been considered. Ms. LaMothe replied that this has not been considered.

Ms. LaMothe stated that plans for the Fogg Library remains on-going. She noted that this building will remain a library facility. She also noted that Mass Cultural Council has funding available for structural projects. Mr. Flynn noted that a CPC funding proposal for the Fogg Library should be considered.

Department of Planning and Community Development

Mr. Fuqua reported for the Planning and Community Department.

The traffic signal at Libby Parkway and Middle Street design work is 99% complete. The proposal is to use free cash and Chapter 90 money.

Mr. Fuqua noted that a traffic light at the other end of Libby parkway is planned; the Alexan project is required to put in a traffic light.

A Columbian Square improvement program is proposed to be paid for by the LNR (HCA). Request for Proposals (RFP's) are due towards the end of February. A comprehensive review is being requested; underground utilities, traffic lights, streetscape, and municipal parking changes are being looked at.

A pedestrian signal at Green Street and East Street is planned. Push buttons would be installed on the poles. This will add a new dimension to the light that is not currently in place.

At Pond Meadow Park there is a piece of land available by the entryway that is being considered for a CPC application. Mr. Flynn noted that this is currently before the CPC.

The Back River Trail first phase is underway in regards to connecting Abigail Adams Park and Great Esker Park.

Other Business

Minutes

Mr. Hawkins made a MOTION to ACCEPT the minutes from the 1/16/07 and was seconded by Ms. Williams and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Adjournment

At 9:00pm there being no further business, a MOTION was made by Mrs. Akoury to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Hawkins, and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Walter Flynn, Vice-Chairperson

Date