

**PLANNING BOARD
RECORD OF MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS
NOVEMBER 9, 2004**

The Planning Board of the Town of Weymouth held a public meeting on Wednesday, November 9, 2004 at 7:30 pm at McCulloch Building, Whipple Center Conference Room, 182 Green Street, Weymouth, MA

Present: Paul Dillon, Chairperson
Walter Flynn
Paul Hurley
Mary Akoury

Staff: Rod Fuqua, Principal Planner
James Keefe, Procurement Officer

Recording Secretary: Janet Murray

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Paul Dillion called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Sherrick Farm – Bond Release

Rod Fuqua informed the Board that this project is completed pending installation of one speed limit sign and two no parking signs. The roadways and utilities bond was for the amount of \$39,800 per the lender's agreement.

Walter Flynn made a MOTION to APPROVE the bond release in the amount of \$39,800 and was seconded by Paul Hurley and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Tanner Terrace

Mr. Fuqua informed the Board that the utilities have been installed and the paving is almost complete. If the Board votes to establish the bond in the amount of \$20,000, it will depend upon the satisfactory completion of the basecoat.

Walter Flynn made a MOTION to APPROVE the establishment of a bond in the amount of \$20,000 pending the satisfactory completion of the basecoat as per DPW approval and was seconded by Paul Hurley and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

CAPITAL BUDGET

Fire Department

Fire Chief Robert Leary and Buzz Smith appeared before the Board.

Chief Leary noted that last year's items were funded thru both the capital budget and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants. Two of the items were turn out gear and an exhaust system for diesel smoke.

For vehicles, the Chief is looking to upgrade his car from a sedan to an SUV. The sedan is a 1993 Crown Victoria with approximately 113,000 miles. This vehicle gets about 14 miles per gallon. If replaced with another vehicle, the sedan would be used by the deputy chief. Engine 5 has structural cracks in the rear that would require a considerable amount of work to upkeep. In addition there are electrical issues. He would like to scrap this engine and purchase a new one. The Board asked Chief Leary to provide the following information regarding this vehicle:

- Mileage on the engine
- Hours used
- Cost of repairs to date

The town currently has four forest pick up trucks. These vehicles are used to tow boats for brush and wood fires. They are also used to tow the department's rescue boat. He noted that the amount of wooded areas in the town is decreasing. His department could get along well with only two vehicles, one at each end of town at Station #1 and Station #5. He stated that a utility body truck would provide better service. He has looked into trucks with plastic beds. One of these vehicles would cost approximately \$47,000. In the past, the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) allowed for the purchase of vehicles but now the grants are given mostly for American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades.

Buzz Smith is the town's fire alarm superintendent. He stated that the van he currently uses is 12 years old and has 72,000 miles on it. He is proposing to replace it with a service van. Including accessories, this van would cost approximately \$21,000.

The Chief stated that C-2, the Department's Command vehicle, is a 1997 Ford Expedition. It lacks rear power supply to support the thermal imager, wireless transmitter, and mobile data terminals. He noted that he has already submitted plans to the Mayor for a commercial grade SUV. The Mayor will bring the matter before the Council, which in turn will refer it to the Budget Management Committee. A decision is expected in approximately two weeks.

Priority #1

Ladder 1 was built in 1984. The town purchased it in 1997 after it had been refurbished. The vehicle is structurally perfect. The department would like to spend \$25,000 for a diesel rebuild after which the ladder truck would serve well as a spare for about ten years. He did note that there is a problem with the lug nuts as a result of the current diesel problems.

Priority #2

A new ladder would be needed to replace Ladder 1 on the front line. The Fire Department has applied to the federal government for a new ladder truck and the potential of receiving these funds is good. A new ladder truck would cost approximately \$520,000. The town would be required to pay 30% of the cost. If the department used the value of Ladder 5, the town could potentially get two ladder trucks for approximately \$250,000. The grant's timetable has 16 weeks left on it. The website for this grant program is www.firehouse.com.

Engine 2 is a front line vehicle that was purchased in 1994. It has 80,000 miles. The engine needs to be refurbished. It needs springs, shocks, brakes, pumps, interior replacement, and a paint job. This is a priority for fiscal year 2006.

The department's 1993 Ford Explorer has 96,000 miles on it. It was used as training vehicle but is now in reserve.

The Chief noted that since all maintenance has been transferred to DPW, the utility vehicle is no longer needed.

Building and Grounds

The self-contained breathing apparatus has 9-year-old cylinders and the back frames are beaten up. The department has 40 complete sets and 80 spare cylinders. The Chief noted that 8 frames are sent out each month for repair and flow testing. This costs \$500. This is a priority for fiscal year 2007.

The fire alarm operator dispatch center has 1970's technology. The system is beyond the ability to be upgraded. The proposed new work area would have three workstations. This set up would allow for expansion to include ambulance dispatch. Also, the current dispatch is accessible to the public. These changes would allow the department to meet federal standards to go into effect in the next ten years. Under these standards, old equipment would be allowed to remain, but not repaired.

There was a discussion regarding a town wide central communication system on a frequency network. The Fire and Police Departments are working together to obtain compatible software. This would allow for a common database, but would allow for separate systems.

Buzz Smith spoke regarding the town's 1,898 wired fire alarm boxes. Mr. Smith stated that he is the only employee who works on the fire alarms. There are currently 5-600 boxes with 300 miles of wiring.

He noted that when the Navy abandoned the Air Station, the town received a wireless fire alarm system. The current proposal to convert to mostly wireless technology would reduce the number of boxes in neighborhoods to about 50. Boxes would remain near railroads, beaches, intersections, and parks. Businesses make up most of the uses of the fire alarm systems. As each business comes due for inspection, they would be given the option to convert to a radio master box to the central station or to go with a commercial system such as ADT. A company like ADT requires 2 phone lines. This project would be phased in over three years. The alarms would be purchased from Mammoth Company.

Chief Leary stated that Station 2 needs apparatus bay doors replaced. They were installed in 1936. This would require the removal of 8" of trim. The new doors would be recessed. He noted that historical concerns could increase the cost. The Chief told the Board that he would be meeting with the building inspector and the architect on November 22, 2004.

The Board requested that the Chief provide 3-years of maintenance costs and project year of replacement for the following line items:

- 8 Engine 5
- 9 Forest Trucks
- 10 Van
- 13 Ladder 1
- 14 Engine 2
- 15 Crown Victoria staff vehicle

Police Department

Police Chief James Thomas and Lieutenant Ken Harrison appeared before the Board.

Chief Thomas noted that his department is making the following requests:

1. Eleven (11) full size police cruisers.

These cruisers would be used as front line vehicles. The chief presented a list of current vehicles and their mileage. The Police Department is scheduled to get 6 cruisers. This is a request for five more.

The Chief noted that there are five sector cars, two shift (6am-2pm) cars, two supervisors, and two traffic cars. The Police Department has a total of forty cars. The prices reflect a 10% increase per MHQ, which changed the model of the cars. The cars are currently maintained by DPW.

The chief noted that his officers patrol the former naval air station site. Walter Flynn asked about potential mitigation from Lennar for fire and police apparatus if Lennar's proposed re-use of the base is approved. Mr. Flynn also questioned why GPS is not in the cruisers. The Chief stated that the software would require more equipment and that the software is not compatible.

The chief noted that the department would need a police evidence van in 2005. He also noted that the department has a pick up truck on its wish list. This truck would be used for transport and snow removal. A police wagon is on the list for '07 or '08.

2. Computer System

The Chief noted that the current system was installed in 1996 and is not PC based and is not compatible with any of the new systems available. He intends to get three vendor quotes. He would visit sites of each vendor's consumers, and consider what other police department uses. The Chief stated that wireless modem purchases would cost \$450 after Verizon subsidy.

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There was more discussion regarding an integrated system in collaboration with other departments including the Police, DPW, and Emergency Management. He is looking to be cost effective by collaborating with the fire department.

Once a decision is made to purchase the new system, the cost should be somewhat lower after negotiations with the vendor.

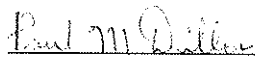
The Homeland Security requirements for computer systems need to be met.

OTHER BUSINESS

There will be a public hearing on December 2, 2004 on the Echo Avenue project.

The second phase of the Open Space plan was distributed to the Board members.

At 10:20 pm, there being no further business, a MOTION was made by Paul Hurley to adjourn and was seconded by Mary Akoury, and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.



Paul Dillon
Chairperson

11/30/04
Date