

STAMFORD PLANNING BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES # 3735
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012
7TH FLOOR LAND USE CONFERENCE AREA
GOVERNMENT CENTER
888 WASHINGTON BLVD., STAMFORD, CT

Stamford Planning Board Members present were: Theresa Dell, Dudley Williams, Michael Totilo, Claire Fishman, Jay Tepper and Zbigniew Naumowicz. Present for staff was Todd Dumais.

Mrs. Dell opened the meeting and called the Board to order at 7:30pm.

Regular Meeting

Capital Budget FY 2012/13 & Capital Plan 2014-2019:

Mrs. Dell explained that since the Board's last meeting the Board of Finance set the Safe Debt Limit at \$35 million. She distributed a copy of the BoF minutes that summarized the votes, with Member Murphy requested \$20 million; Member Bosak requested \$32 million and the Board eventually compromising on a \$35 million number. Mrs. Dell then described several options that the Planning Board could do: staying where we are at \$42 million or bringing it down to between \$35 and \$38 million. She stated that she would leave the decision up to the rest of the Board to decide.

Mr. Tepper noted the Planning Board was an independent Board and he doesn't think they should revise their actions based on what other Boards are doing.

Mr. Totilo said he didn't disagree. These projects need to be done and a lot of money will be spent on supplemental requests later.

Mr. Williams noted it is important to mention the backlog and severe deferred maintenance of many projects and that is deferred we will borrow in the future at a higher cost.

Mr. Tepper said the safe debt limit is just a number. He recommends writing the Planning Board letter and ignoring all other numbers.

Mr. Totilo stated that for many years the City had \$45 million of safe debt limit and he asked what's changed? It's ludicrous to go backwards especially with the historically low cost of borrowing.

Mrs. Dell said for us to work from a \$95 million budget and cut it down to \$42 million was hard work. It's disingenuous for the Board of Finance to come in at \$35 million. This budget was analyzed and assembled to address real infrastructure needs.

Mr. Williams said the qualify of life from deferred maintenance is astounding because we spent the better part of one and a half months listening to departmental needs.

Mr. Totilo noted they'd relied on the professional advice of Peter Privitera of OPM and in the Board's recommendation letter they shouldn't go against this advice.

Mr. Tepper stated the importance of the projects and the U.S. interest rate climate.

Mr. Williams said the Board should emphasize the interest rate climate. He suggested they find a deferred project and give an example of the costs associated with interest rates climbing.

Mrs. Dell suggested review of Fred Flynn's letter and draft a response saying why the Board developed their recommendation which exceeds the Board of Finance number and here's why.

Mrs. Dell asked if it's the opinion of the Board members to leave the recommended budget at \$42.6 million and the members answered yes.

Planning Board Meeting Minutes:

Minutes of December 6, 2011

Mr. Tepper moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with the eligible members present voting, 5-0 (Dell, Williams, Fishman, Naumowicz and Tepper).

Minutes of November 29, 2011

Mrs. Fishman moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Tepper seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with the eligible members present voting, 5-0 (Dell, Williams, Fishman, Totilo and Tepper).

Minutes of September 6, 2011

Discussion of these minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

Minutes of August 16, 2011

Mr. Williams moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Totilo seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with the eligible members present voting, 4-0 (Dell, Williams, Totilo and Naumowicz).

Old Business

Subdivision #4000 - 24 Rutz Street, request a 90-day extension of time to file the final subdivision map.

Mr. Dumais briefly introduced the request. Mrs. Fishman moved to approval of the requested 90-day extension of time. Mr. Tepper seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with the eligible members present voting, 5-0 (Dell, Williams, Fishman, Quick and Tepper).

There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. Dell adjourned the meeting at 8:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Claire Fishman, Secretary
Stamford Planning Board

Note: These proceedings were recorded on tape and are available for review in the Land Use Bureau located on the 7th floor of Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, during regular business hours.