

STAMFORD PLANNING BOARD
JOINT PUBLIC MEETING & REGULAR MEETING MINUTES # 3593
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2010
4TH FLOOR CAFETERIA
888 WASHINGTON BLVD., STAMFORD, CT

Stamford Planning Board Members present were: Theresa Dell, Claire Fishman, Roger Quick, Jay Tepper, Michael Totilo, and Zbigniew Naumowicz. Present for staff were Robin Stein and Todd Dumais.

Joint Public Meeting

The Chair, Mrs. Theresa Dell, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. She explained that this meeting was a continuation of the Joint Public Meeting on the Capital Budget opened on October 12th.

Mrs. Dell then introduced the members of the Planning Board and staff and welcomed Board of Finance member Kathleen Murphy to the meeting. She informed those present that the public would not have an opportunity to speak at this meeting but at a February 2011 meeting.

Capital Budget Presentations FY 2011/12-2018:

Fire Department

– Peter Brown, Assistant Fire Chief presented the Capital Budget Request.

Fire Hydrant replacement – have to replace 20-30 a year to keep under 100 years old, also need to replace ones from accidents. Stamford owns lateral and hydrant. Average replacement cost \$400-\$500/hydrant.

Mr. Tepper asked how many replace in last few years? Mr. Brown responded around 100 in last 5 years; try between 20-30 a year.

Mr. Quick asked about the Stamford Museum, do they have an internal hydrant on their property? Mr. Brown responded they have 1 yard hydrant in the parking area. Mr. Brown said they'd agreed the fire department would put in a hydrant.

Ms. Murphy asked what the total population of hydrants is? Mr. Brown said 2000. they are replacing the oldest or ones with problems. Ms. Murphy next asked the average age of those hydrants in place and if there is an inspection schedule? Mr. Brown replied that a technician goes over 33% of hydrants every year. Ms. Murphy then asked for an overall grade (A to D) of the hydrants. Mr. Brown said a B with firefighters checking all valves before every winter.

Mr. Quick asked about maintenance on dry hydrants. Mr. Brown said yes.

Facilities Improvements is an ongoing project related to long range improvement plan. Ms. Dell asked what the \$130K in balance is going to finish? Mr. Brown said Shippan and West Fire Station for a generator.

Mr. Quick asked how the Shippan generator upgrade toes into moving the station? Mr. Brown said that's a great question. This was a priority of the previous administration.

Ms. Murphy noted they'd presented a professional 20-year plan and asked if they were following it? Mr. Brown said they are less than half way complete and they are following it with funds available. Stations are in a B to B+ range.

Fire Training Center is available to be used by all departments and people from other towns and they received State funding to cover its costs (approx \$55K/year). It's important to train for all fire scenarios – very, very important.

Mrs. Dell stated they received \$150K for the training center last year and asked if that was enough? Mr. Brown said they are happy with what they received; any amount is good.

Mr. Stein noted they short-changed themselves on the evaluation sheet and expressed wish that someone from OPM was present to explain the rating sheet. Mr. Brown agreed they needed a training exercise on the rating system.

East Side Fire Station – received a lower rating; was a focus of previous administration. Glenbrook Fire Station – Mr. Brown said they are in the process of converting this into a volunteer and paid station; needs to be brought up to a B rating. Some structural problems; leaking roof.

Mrs. Dell made a note for the record that Short Term Capital Vehicles will be moved to the November 16, 2010 meeting.

Volunteer Fire Companies

John Delio, Belltown Fire Department, stated they have an ongoing project for building improvements, bringing things that are 50-60 years old up to today's standards. Regarding the Chassis tower Mr. Delio explained that there is a plan to refurbish the original vehicle from 1972, and that the frame/chassis needs to be replaced. He explained that the refurbishment will save \$200K as compared to buying a new piece of apparatus.

Mrs. Dell asked how long the warranty would be on the refurbished vehicle. Mr. Delio answered he was not sure but that the equipment fits Belltown well and serves needs very well.

Mr. Tepper asked if any residual value on existing chassis? Mr. Delio said they are looking at selling the motor and cab.

Mrs. Dell said she stopped by the station and questioned if the vehicle would be able to fit in their garage? Mr. Delio answered that it does fit in the Center Bay but it's an extremely long vehicle.

Mrs. Dell then asked if something like this could wait until the new Fire merger is complete? Mr. Delio stated the merger is a number of months at best away. It would be useful to be done now and it's a repeated request having been made for a number of prior years.

Robert Bennett, Chief of Long Ridge Fire Department, described building improvements, need chimney replaced, filling stations, doing two bathrooms over.

Mrs. Dell stated they need to go to Engineering department to present their needs and requirements.

Mr. Bennett said they have two pieces of apparatus that are due for replacement since 2005. Mrs. Fishman asked if these engines could be refurbished like in Belltown and a general question if all departments buy equipment separately? Mr. Bennett said the city had ordered their piece and did not believe his vehicles could be rehabbed.

Turn of River Fire Department – Code Compliance, Station 1

Matt Maounis – commented on rating system; doesn't seem to apply for fire station/equipment seems like more infrastructure projects. He then described the departments requests starting with the Elevator at Station 2 which has been requested for over 10 years now and is an ADA compliance issue.

Mr. Maounis described the custom built tanker truck, tank shifted off body of vehicle and cannot get anyone to fix this. He explained that the pump will not pass a pump test and have put into FEMA for grant for its replacement. He stressed that this is a top priority for vehicles.

Mr. Quick asked if they have any apparatus left in Station II? Mr. Maounis said not currently.

Smith House

Barbara Fleisher, Executive Director at Smith House, described a number of projects they are still working on and presented the following requests: Generator Replacement – it's over 25 years old. Out year request in 2012 and 2013; General Improvements; and a Chiller Replacement.

Mrs. Dell suggested they should take roof out and move it to general improvements so they can put the chiller unit as a priority. Mrs. Fleisher clarified the request, that it was for three chiller units for each of the wings. Mr. Totilo asked how old the other chiller units were? Mrs. Fleisher said between 20-25 years.

Mrs. Dell said perhaps they should have all three listed. Mrs. Fleisher added that the East Wing chiller is mandatory and is a priority.

Health Department

Dr. Henry Yuin, Interim Medical Director described need for school health record system. He explained that it was a snap software for electronic medical records that would replace traditional paper charts used in school system by school nurses. Mr. Yuin stated that Norwalk has been using this system for 10 years and that New Canaan is also using it.

Mr. Tepper questioned security and what happens to records after individual leaves the system? Dr. Yuin explained that the system is protected though passwords, encryptions and then said that HIPA requires that the records are stored once student leaves systems.

Mrs. Murphy stated there is a big movement to e-records and asked if they are eligible for any grants? Dr. Yuin said the requested system is tailored specifically to schools and nurses. The amount requested is less than what is needed in the long run.

Mrs. Dell told the group that the budget hearing for the evening was concluded and the next Capital Budget meeting would be held on November 9, 2010.

Mrs. Murphy stated that departments have to be better at closing out projects and better at accounting for supplemental appropriations. They should keep going back to ground zero "Safe Debt Limit", shouldn't have a big gap between safe debt and appropriations.

Mrs. Dell agreed, stressing close outs and completing projects within a year this will help to streamline what's coming before the Board.

Mrs. Murphy stated that the departments should focus on infrastructure, citing Greenwich as an example which spends \$8-\$10million a year on schools with Stamford spending less than \$3 million. She added that infrastructure is important and should be emphasized.

Mrs. Fishman asked given the Safe Debt Limit and the fact that the budget is under that number, why should the Board of Finance want to cut additional monies?

Mrs. Murphy said the City gets out of whack on supplemental approvals which put the budget over the Safe Debt Limit.

Regular Meeting

Old Business

Subdivision #3993, 24 Rutz Street, request an extension of time to file final the Subdivision map.

Mr. Stein described the request and that he sees no negatives in giving the requested time. He noted that the applicant is requesting 180-day full extension.

After a short discussion, Mr. Quick moved to recommend approval of the time extension. Mr. Tepper seconded and passed unanimously with the members present voting 5-0 (Dell, Fishman, Totilo, Quick and Tepper).

New Business

Next meeting will be November 9, 2010. Mr Stein noted that the Fairway Market opening slated for November 3rd opening and the Board was invited.

There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. Dell adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Dell, Chairman
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.