

STAMFORD PLANNING BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES #3568
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8th, 2009
7TH FLOOR CONFERENCE AREA
888 WASHINGTON BLVD., STAMFORD, CT

Stamford Planning Board Members present were: Duane Hill, Theresa Dell, Rose Marie Grosso, and Jay Tepper. Present for staff were Robin Stein and Josh Lecar.

Regular Meeting

The chairman, Mr. Duane Hill, called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Supplemental Capital Request:

Long Ridge/High Ridge Roads Corridor Study, Traffic Engineering, \$500,000

Mr. Stein noted that this item was not on the original agenda and required a 2/3 majority vote to add to the agenda. Mr. Tepper moved to add this item to the agenda. Mrs. Dell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with the members present voting, 4-0. (Hill, Dell, Grosso and Tepper)

Mani Poola, City Traffic Engineer, briefly introduced the study. He noted that there have been many requests for small improvements along the two arterials, including traffic safety improvements, traffic calming and signal studies. Mrs. Dell identified the need to study Den Road for a signal, while Mr. Tepper mentioned Chestnut Hill Road. Mr. Poola mentioned a previous review of signalization of the intersection of High Ridge Road at Wildwood. He also noted that over the years most residents have expressed a willingness to accept new signals but that the whole issue needs further study. Mr. Tepper questioned whether the study would be done in-house or by a consultant. Mr. Poola indicated it would be a combination of both.

Mr. Tepper moved for an approval of the item. Mrs. Grosso seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with the members present voting, 4-0. (Hill, Dell, Grosso and Tepper)

Capital Budget FY 2010/11-2017:

Mr. Stein discussed the steps taken to ensure public participation in the Capital Budget process. He noted that he had previously reviewed the procedures with Corporation Counsel, and stated that the Planning Board meetings to discuss the Budget are all held as public meetings. He indicated to the Board that the Public Hearing has been scheduled for Thursday, February 4th at 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Dell noted that she has reviewed the process with the Board of Finance chairman. Mr. Hill recommended that there is a need for greater coordination between boards, so that everyone involved in the process understands the schedule and can make their views known.

Mr. Stein presented a revised Draft Budget noting that it incorporated suggestions from Board members to keep the overall Program budget below \$50 million. He identified one additional request from the Board of Education for \$700,000 to conduct roof repairs at Rippowam School. He noted that the Administration will set the Safe Debt Limit by December 15. The current total for the 2010/11 Capital Budget comes to approximately \$46 million as a net of proposed expenditures less grant reimbursements. He mentioned that the new administration believes that the target should be a \$40 million Capital Program.

Mr. Stein continued to identify the specific changes since the prior draft budget presentation. The Affordable Housing fund (p. 28) was increased from \$1.5 million to \$1.9 million because two projects at once are anticipated during the coming budget year.

In discussion of the Ferguson Library capital request, Mrs. Dell suggested that the Bookmobile program is very popular and more funds should be directed to this.

Mr. Stein then identified the increase for the Bartlett Arboretum (p. 33) in connection with a revised estimate for the work, and the need for a full match of the State grant in order for their project to move forward. He indicated that the Board of Education had requested the addition of \$700,000 for Rippowam School roof repairs (pg. 38) to address a leaking roof.

Al Barbarotto, Board of Education Director of Facilities Management, suggested a shift of the Rippowam School roof repairs to the district-wide roof repair line item (p. 39) to be funded at \$1.2 million total for FY 2010/11, and a reduction of \$500,000 from repairs at Dolan school with the funding shifted to conduct repairs at Davenport School. Mr. Stein questioned whether the work at Turn of River School will be reimbursed partially from State grants. Mr. Barbarotto indicated that this will be true for subsequent Capital Program years.

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Hill adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Duane Hill, Chairman

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.