

MINUTES OF PLANNING BOARD - REGULAR MEETING #3282
JANUARY 9, 2001
7th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM, GOVERNMENT CENTER
888 WASHINGTON BLVD., STAMFORD, CT

Present for the Board were: Duane Hill, Chairman; Marggie Laurie; John Garnjost; Helane Rheingold; and Claire Fishman. Present for staff were: Robin Stein, Land Use Bureau Chief; and Carol Davis, Senior Planner.

Mr. Hill opened the meeting at 7:40 pm. Correspondence regarding the capital budget from the Board of Education and Library was distributed.

Capital Budget 2001/2002-2008

Mr. Stein explained that he used the Board of Representatives' Capital Forecast for 2001-2002 as a baseline for his proposals. He said his numbers projected \$12.3 million net for the Board of Education whereas the school proposed \$34 million net. Mr. Garnjost commented that last year the budget recognized that there were ongoing Board of Education studies and therefore the forecast was low. Mr. Hill suggested that members review these studies and look at energy performance categories that would pay for themselves. Mr. Garnjost reiterated his request to have OPM list the education projects in order of priority.

Mr. Stein compared each of his '01-'02 proposals with the most recent Board of Education list. The major differences were in five projects: Scofieldtown Auditorium, Northeast School Renovation, Land for New Middle School, New Middle School Design, and Energy Performance Programs. Mr. Hill said there appears to be consensus on the new middle school and Mrs. Laurie questioned whether there is consensus saying that Mr. Hamilton projected that the schools would account for 70% of the capital budget and she would like to consider the Board of Education priorities using that criteria. Mr. Stein said these two items represent an increase of \$8 million and if retained they must be countered by reducing the budget elsewhere by \$8 million.

Mrs. Laurie said she can agree to remove Energy Performance and land for the new middle school but would keep the \$2 million for middle school design. After discussion it was agreed that after the location and scope of the new middle school have been determined the Board of Education can ask for a supplemental appropriation for design.

It was agreed that \$1 million should be allocated for Northeast School Renovation in 2001-02, \$2 million in 2002-03 and \$2.5 million in 2003-04.

Mrs. Laurie reiterated her support for the Scofieldtown Auditorium, and Mr. Hill said he does not think student education will be compromised by a combined auditorium/gymnasium. Martin Levine, Board of Education president, said there are issues with the combined facility such as lack of a slanted floor and carpeting. Superintendent Anthony Mazzullo explained that the combined facility was not designed for an arts program but rather as a place to bring all students in the school together. Mr. Levine said the school originally included an auditorium and it was cut out to save money. He explained that the total cost would be \$6 million. Mr. Hill asked the school administration to provide specific details on how the combined facility will look and work. Mr. Mazzullo said if an auditorium is to be built funds for design will be needed this year but construction costs can be put off to an out year. No decision was made about this.

Joseph Tarzia, Board of Finance member, recommended that if the Planning Board expects a supplemental appropriation it should communicate this in its budget message.

After a break the meeting reconvened at 9:50 PM with review of the remaining department requests. Mr. Stein said after removing the items flagged at the last meeting the totals each year were reduced by only about \$1 million. In a run down by departments the following changes were made:

Office of

Administration - Wide Area Network – nothing in out years

Upgrade Financial System– nothing in out years

City Wide Software Upgrade – nothing in out years

Local Area Network – nothing in out years

Highways - Pavement Management System – nothing in out years

Solid Waste - Shredder Blades – nothing in out years

Engineering - Signal Hardware Upgrade – nothing in out years

Facilities – Rinks – remove in 2001-2002

Land Use – Waterside Village Streetscape – add \$130,000 in 2001-2002 (developer donation)

Fire & Rescue - East Side Fire Station - \$200,000 in 2001-2002 and \$1,515,000 in 2003-2004

Library - Main Library Renovation - \$500,000 in 2001-2002, \$750,000 in 2002-2003, \$500,000 in 2003-2004

Computer Network Upgrade - \$75,000 in 2001-2002, nothing in out years

Handicapped Access - \$105,000 in 2001-2002, nothing in out years

HVAC System - \$275,000 in 2001-2002, nothing in out years

Main Library Façade – \$66,000 in 2001-2002, nothing in out years

Main Library Roof Replacement - \$50,000 in 2002-2003

Mr. Stein distributed a draft transmittal letter and asked members to submit comments to him before the next meeting. It was agreed that an appendix to the transmittal letter would list the flagged items.

Minutes for Approval:

December 19, 2000 - Tabled

December 26, 2000 - Tabled

New Business:

Mr. Garnjost announced that SWRPA will conduct its annual legislative meeting on January 10, 2001.

The next meeting was scheduled for 7 PM on January 16, 2000 and the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Duane Hill, Chairman
Stamford Planning Board

Note: These proceedings were recorded on tape and are available for review during regular business hours.