

MINUTES OF PLANNING BOARD
REGULAR MEETING #3275 - NOVEMBER 21, 2000
7th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM, GOVERNMENT CENTER
888 WASHINGTON BLVD., STAMFORD, CT

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

Mr. Hill opened the meeting at 7:05 PM.

Capital Budget 2001/2002-2008 - Departmental Presentations:

Ferguson Library

Ernest DiMattia reviewed the capital requests. He said the Main Library and Weed Branch renovations are priorities. He explained that uses and clientele at the Main Library have changed since it was built and that interior reconfiguration and refurbishment are necessary. He showed proposed floor plans. He showed plans for a 2,300 sq. ft. addition to the Weed Branch. Other requests included \$105,000 for a handicapped ramp and new doors at the main library's front entrance. He said the project will total \$175,000 and Starbucks will contribute the balance. He explained that computer training and classroom expansion is needed because of more foreign language classes and greater hands-on activities.

Nick Boccacio said that \$75,000 would replace one third of the computer network. He also said that Phase I of the Main Library facade restoration is almost completed and that there have been savings here.

Mr. Garnjost said there are significant new items and asked if phasing had been considered. Mr. DiMattia replied that it had not. Mr. Boccacio said the Main Library may get a State library construction grant of \$500,000. Mr. Garnjost noted that the prior request for the Weed Branch was \$250,000 and he asked if Zoning has approved the addition. Mr. DiMattia said he had not looked into zoning. He said the branch has strong usage, especially children and older adults.

Mr. Garnjost suggested that in the request for computers it be indicated that this relates to all libraries. He also said that Zoning approval will be needed for the handicapped ramp and outdoor restaurant. He asked why the HVAC request was so much larger. Mr. Boccacio explained that the system is old and an upgrade is needed.

Mr. Hill said any other questions would be forwarded to the library and proposed that savings be used to pay for some of these requests.

Board of Education

Superintendent Anthony Mazzulo distributed an update of the budget proposal. He said that five school renovations have been completed and the Board of Education wants to improve the other schools. He said the consultants' recommendations have been included in the plan. He then spoke to each request and passed out school population data. He said there will be 300 over enrollment in the middle schools next year while the high schools will stabilize at 5,000. He said if the elementary school population increases a new elementary school may be needed. He said State funds for a new middle school are not going well since the State would prefer a new high school. He said unless funds are allocated for an auditorium Scofieldtown will be the only school without a performing arts program.

John Lindquist reported that technology equipment and infrastructure have been following last year's plans. He said the emphasis is on the middle and high school and there is a need for more people. He said there is only one other AIT program like this in the country and that increased funding would double the present capacity. He said a lot of funds are available for technology but it can always use more.

Mr. Stein and Mr. Abbazia arrived.

There was considerable discussion about the AIT program and how the program is being evaluated. M. Lindquist emphasized that there is a need for trained teachers.

Mr. Abbazia asked about energy savings and Mr. Mazzulo said savings will show in the operating budget unless use of additional computers offsets the savings. Mr. Mazzulo explained that for a new school to get 100% reimbursement from the State 20% of the students must come from other districts.

Mr. Stein asked if there are priorities within budget items, like roofs. Mr. Mazzulo said this has not been done but it can be provided.

Mr. Garnjost said he needs to understand the present design of Rippowam and how it is to be in the future.

In answer to questions, Mr. Mazzulo said if Rippowam becomes a high school AIT will stay there. He said the academies do not increase capacity problems because the high schools are not at maximum limits. He said it is not known whether the academies can attract enough out of district students but they will be attractive and will provide school capacity comparable to enrollment.

Mrs. Laurie said there should be an auditorium at Scofieldtown MS.

Mr. Garnjost asked for more information about the \$2.6 million requested for design of the middle school. Mr. Mazzulo explained that \$10 million estimate for land acquisition is based on the necessary acreage. He said a site for the middle school must be found fast since the middle schools will be way over capacity. He said the primary search is in the Cove area.

It was agreed that the school administration would submit the following information: A prioritized list of District-Wide Programs; Configuration of Rippowam now and as a high school; A breakdown, by school, showing school capacity and enrollment; More information regarding the \$2,650,000 request for New Middle School Design; Time frame for determining New Middle School location; Timing of the VO-AG Expansion; and Design and location of VO-AG Expansion.

Correspondence from Mayor Malloy regarding Purchase, Sales and Exchange Agreement for One Main Street and 10 Lipton Place.

Mr. Stein explained that more information will be forthcoming on this. He said a \$97,000 State grant will go toward the purchase of the Main Street property and that appraisals for the two parcels have not been received. Mrs. Laurie asked for the difference between the appraisal before and after the building permit was approved on one Main Street. No action was taken pending receipt of the appraisals.

Minutes for Approval:

#3271 - October 17, 2000 - unanimously approved

Old Business:

Mr. Stein explained the safe debt limit and the role of the Planning Board in the Capital Budget process. He asked that the December 5 meeting be rescheduled to December 6 since he will be at a ULI conference in Atlanta. The Board concurred.

Mr. Garnjost asked staff to forward a list of questions to the Board of Education and Ferguson Library. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy Abbazia, Secretary
Stamford Planning Board

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