

STAMFORD PLANNING BOARD
APPROVED MINUTES - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021
REGULAR MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING - CAPITAL BUDGET
(Public Hearing Rescheduled from January 12, 2021)
VIA THE INTERNET & CONFERENCE CALL
Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m. / Public Hearing - 7:00 p.m.

JOIN ZOOM MEETING
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81976302460>

Meeting ID: 819 7630 2460
Passcode: 492341

Web & Phone Meeting Instructions

- If your computer/smartphone has mic and speaker then:
Type in, paste or click the following link: **<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81976302460>**; **OR**
- If not, then **Call-in** using the **phone number, Meeting ID & password** provided above.
- Sign-up for Planning Board meeting updates by emailing **lcapp@stamfordct.gov**.

Web Meeting Ground Rules:

- The meeting shall be recorded and the video shall be posted on the City of Stamford website **http://cityofstamford.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=8**
- The Planning Board shall moderate the audio for attendees.
- Attendees shall be on mute and will be unmuted when called to speak by the Planning Board members.
- Applicants will have 20 minutes to make their presentation.
- Any applicant wishing to submit written testimony can send it prior to the meeting to **lcapp@stamfordct.gov** or submit through a Chat message to the Planning Board Chair during the meeting.

Stamford Planning Board Members present were: Voting Members: Theresa Dell, Chair; Jay Tepper, Vice Chair; Jennifer Godzeno, Secretary; and Michael Totilo. Alternates: William Levin and Claire Fishman. Absent: Michael Buccino, Voting Member. Present for staff: David W. Woods, PhD, FAICP, Deputy Director of Planning; Mark McGrath, Director of Operations; Jay Fountain, Director, Office of Policy & Management; Anthony Romano, Management Analyst, Office of Policy & Management; Rowena Track, Chief Executive Officer, the Boys & Girls Club of Stamford and Alice Knapp, President, Ferguson Library.

Ms. Dell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., introduced the members of the Board and staff present and made a brief statement regarding the Public Hearing.

Ms. Dell introduced the first item on the agenda.

PLANNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

January 12, 2021: After a brief discussion, Mr. Tepper moved to recommend approval of the Planning Board Regular Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2021; Mr. Totilo seconded the motion, and passed unanimously with eligible members present voting, 5-0 (Dell, Godzeno, Levin, Tepper and Totilo).

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION

SUPPLEMENTAL CAPITAL PROJECT APPROPRIATION REQUESTS:

Anthony Romano, Management Analyst, Office of Policy & Management provided a brief explanation of each supplemental.

1. STREET PATCH & RESURFACING - PROJECT #C56182 - TOTAL REQUEST \$205,753.58:

This is the amount required to restore final pavement conditions based on the work recently performed by Aquarion Water Company on the eastside of Stamford. As this work will be done by the Citywide paving contractor, Aquarion has reimbursed the City the amount required to perform the final paving in lieu of performing the work using their contractor. The dollar amount is based on the unit prices provided by the Citywide paver multiplied by the quantity of paving required.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Totilo recommended approval of the Street Patch & Resurfacing - Project #C56182 with a Total Request of \$205,753.58 and this request has been reviewed pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 8-24 and Section C6-30-13 of the City Charter and finds this request to be consistent with CGS Section 8-24, and the City Charter Section C6-30-13, as well as consistent with the adopted 2015 Master Plan; Ms. Godzeno seconded the motion and passed unanimously with eligible members present voting, 5-0 (Dell, Fishman, Godzeno, Tepper and Totilo).

2. STAMFORD HIGH (MOLD TASK FORCE) - PROJECT #CPBM31 - TOTAL REQUEST

\$215,704.50: This was a rebate from Eversource Energy for energy efficiency measures related to installation of new high-efficiency boilers, water heaters and unit ventilator controls at Stamford High School.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Tepper recommended approval of the Stamford High (Mold Task Force) - Project #CPBM31 with a Total Request of \$215,704.50 and this request has been reviewed pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 8-24 and Section C6-30-13 of the City Charter and finds this request to be consistent with CGS Section 8-24, and the City Charter Section C6-30-13, as well as consistent with the adopted 2015 Master Plan; Ms. Godzeno seconded the motion and passed unanimously with eligible members present voting, 5-0 (Dell, Godzeno, Levin, Tepper and Totilo).

3. WESTOVER MAGNET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (MOLD TASK FORCE) - PROJECT #CPBM17 - TOTAL REQUEST \$53,808.50:

This was a rebate from Eversource Energy for installing two (2) new high-efficiency boilers at Westover Magnet Elementary School.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Totilo recommended approval of the Street Patch & Resurfacing - Project #C56182 with a Total Request of \$205,753.58 and this request has been reviewed pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 8-24 and Section C6-30-13 of the City Charter and finds this request to be consistent with CGS Section 8-24, and the City Charter Section C6-30-13, as well as consistent with the adopted 2015 Master Plan; Ms. Fishman seconded the motion and passed unanimously with eligible members present voting, 5-0 (Dell, Fishman, Godzeno, Tepper and Totilo).

Ms. Dell brought forward Old Business and New Business as there was time before the Public Hearing began at 7:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Dell mentioned there is a Special Meeting scheduled for tomorrow, February 3, 2021 for final discussion and adoption of the Capital Budget. As it seems there will not be many participants from the public for the Hearing and as per conversations with Mr. Romano, there were no objections since posting the budget on the website, Ms. Dell suggested if there are no lengthy comments or discussions, we will close the Public Hearing and move directly to discussions. If we get through that, we can cancel the meeting for tomorrow night. Ms. Dell stated adoption will not take place tonight. It will be held until the next meeting on February 9, 2021 as well as review and approval of the submittal letter.

Dr. Woods stated he would like to put on some additional items on the agenda after the Capital Budget to clear up the calendar and cancel the February 16, 2021 meeting. Then the next meeting would be March 9, 2021. All Board members agreed.

Ms. Dell mentioned a building development taking place on the Merritt Parkway between Exits 33 & 34 heading towards Greenwich that Stamford residents have been inquiring about. There is a large area that has been clear-cut and there are large piles of dirt along the highway. Ms. Dell has asked Jim Lunney, Zoning Enforcement Officer, to see if he can look into the situation and provide information as to what is being built and to make sure proper permits have been acquired.

Ms. Dell stated there is approximately 15 minutes before the Public Hearing begins and suspended the Regular Meeting.

Ms. Fishman announced the Mayor will not be reappointing her to the Planning Board but that she will be able to move to another Board where there is an availability.

Next regularly scheduled Planning Board meetings are:

- February 3, 2021 - Special Meeting - Capital Budget Final Review & Adoption
- February 9, 2021 - Regular Meeting

Ms. Dell called the meeting back to order and opened the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING TO BEGIN AT 7:00 P.M.

CAPITAL BUDGET:

In accordance with Section C-611.3 of the Stamford Charter, the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing (*rescheduled from January 12, 2021 due to a clerical error*) to hear public comments on the recommended Capital Budget for 2021-2022 and Capital Plan for 2022-2028.

Ms. Dell asked Ms. Godzeno to read the Legal Notice into the record as follows:

In accordance with Section C-611.3 of the Stamford Charter, the **STAMFORD PLANNING BOARD has rescheduled the Public Hearing to hear public comments on the recommended CAPITAL BUDGET FOR 2021-2022 and CAPITAL PLAN FOR 2022-2028 to Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.** via phone and internet video conference. The need for rescheduling was due to an error in posting the incorrect Draft Capital Budget on the Planning Board website. Copies of the budget document are available on the Planning Board website at www.stamfordct.gov/planning-board.

Dated at the City of Stamford this 25th day of January 2021.

Ms. Dell stated that the Planning Board has been working on the Capital Budget since meeting with the outside agencies and government departments and at that time, had asked that projects submitted could be completed within a year of funding, any projects financed with bonds should have a useful life equal to or exceeding the bond repayment period, project submissions should be prioritized based on the greatest value to the City's tax payers, departments should identify alternative options to not pursuing or modifying the proposed projects and the Board would give consideration to projects based on requests from prior years. All the departments and outside agencies did do that, which she thanked everyone. The Planning Board met in November and gave each department and agency a dollar figure. As known, the original budget was over \$100M but needed to work with \$40M. Although it was \$40M, there was only \$20M to work with as \$10M went to fund the new financial system for the Government Center, \$5M was directed to mold remediation in the schools and \$5M for paving. Also, due to COVID-19, it was agreed the outside agencies should receive higher consideration for their projects this year.

Ms. Dell opened the discussion for the Capital Budget.

Comments were made by the following participants:

- ***Alice Knapp, President, Ferguson Library.*** Ms. Knapp thanked the Board for the hard work and support of Ferguson Library. Ms. Knapp also explained that the funds received will be used to write a grant to cover the work for installation of solar panels on the roof of the main library.
- ***Rowena Track, Chief Executive Officer, Girls & Boys Club of Stamford.*** Ms. Track thanked the Planning Board for appropriating the requested funds for the Yerwood Center. Ms. Track also provided background information on the Yerwood Center.
- ***Richard Redniss, Redniss & Mead.*** Mr. Redniss made comments regarding the Yerwood Center.
- ***Mark McGrath, Director of Operations, City of Stamford.*** Mr. McGrath stated he was participating to answer any questions.

Ms. Dell made a final call for any comments. There was no response.

Ms. Dell closed the public portion of the Public Hearing and thanked everyone who attended and made comments.

Ms. Dell called for a motion to close the Public Hearing. Mr. Tepper made the motion to close the Public Hearing; seconded by Mr. Totilo and passed unanimously with eligible members present voting, 5-0 (Dell, Godzeno, Levin, Tepper and Totilo).

Ms. Dell called for a motion to bring forward the agenda item on the Special Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, 2021 to tonight's agenda. Mr. Tepper made a motion to bring forward the agenda item on the Special Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, 2021 to tonight's agenda, seconded by Mr. Totilo and passed unanimously with eligible members present voting, 5-0 (Dell, Fishman, Godzeno, Tepper and Totilo).

The Planning Board had a brief discussion on the Capital Budget.

Ms. Dell closed the Capital Budget and stated the February 3, 2021 meeting will be cancelled and approval of transmittal letter to the Mayor and adoption of the Capital Budget will take place at the meeting scheduled for February 9, 2021.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Dell adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Godzeno, Secretary
Stamford Planning Board

NOTE: These proceedings were recorded on video and are available for review on the Planning Board website at http://cityofstamford.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=20