

PLANNING BOARD MINUTES
TOWN OF FOSTER
Benjamin Eddy Building, 6 South Killingly Road
Wednesday: February 6, 2019

A. Call to Order

Ron Cervasio called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Board Members Present: Ron Cervasio, Chair; Joe Carey, Vice Chair; Helen Hardy, Secretary; Mike Carpenter; Anthony Renzi; Lisa Johnston; and Jeff Sheldon.

Staff Present: Jennifer Siciliano, Planner; Joanna Achille, Solicitor

Town Officials: Denise L. DiFranco, Chris Stone Town Council members; Sandy Sheldon, Tax Board of Review

Also Present: Gordon Rogers

C. Minutes (reviewed after D.)

January 16, 2019

Joe Carey moved, Mike Carpenter seconded, to approve the minutes of January 16, 2019.

Discussion: Ron Cervasio tabled this until the next meeting as he did not think the votes were correct. Ms. Hardy noted the number of people who voted on each thing didn't seem right for the number of people. Mr. Sheldon asked about the ambulance corporation turning over their books. Mr. Cervasio stated that was not productive. Ms. Hardy said there was discussion.

D. Correspondence (reviewed before C.)

Mr. Cervasio reviewed planning board correspondence:

- A megawatts chart.
- Anthony Renzi presented a leasing document.
- Mr. Cervasio presented used fire truck information with a contact list.
- One was a blight ordinance.
- Amount of capital monies the town has. Mr. Cervasio asked if anyone knew how much capital money was available on the night of the discussion. Mr. Sheldon stated he thought it was \$914,000. Mr. Cervasio stated the ending balance on June 30, 2018, was \$1,300,000.
- Mr. Cervasio distributed the Charter requirements for the Planning Board noting particularly that it referred to "the physical growth and development of the town". He questioned if the planning board should be doing economic development.
- Mr. Cervasio also discussed storage of commercial vehicles over one ton.

E. Appointment of Liaisons

1) Land Trust and Conservation Commission

Mr. Cervasio tabled this item because he said he could not appoint because there has to be an election.

F. Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Process Review

G. Inflation Cost History of Fire Trucks

Mr. Cervasio asked Ms. Hardy when they first bought a fire truck. He reviewed the comparison between the costs of fire trucks vs. amount in the budget over the years. Town revenues were not keeping up with costs.

H. Town Revenue – Profit vs. Cash Flow (discussed after item I.)

Town taxes citizens at 4%. Mr. Cervasio questioned whether the town runs "profit" or on "cash flow".

Discussion: Joe Carey stated that the town is not a business and does not operate to generate profit by taxing whatever you want. Anthony Renzi pointed out that the town can only raise taxes to the 4% limit. Mr. Cervasio stated that there are no new customers to increase revenue.

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Discussion of renting/leasing vs. purchasing/buying secondhand vehicles. Mr. Cervasio said that the information presented to the board at the CIP meeting was not adequate to make intelligent decisions. Mr. Renzi stated that he did not know at the time of the meeting how much money they had to work with. Mr. Carey agreed that the system is flawed and suggested starting capital budget requests and information earlier to give the board more time to make intelligent and informed decisions.

I. Board Procedures (discussed before agenda item H.)

1. Meeting Procedures:
Mr. Cervasio stated that he will ask for a motion. He will not vote unless it is necessary.
2. Mr. Cervasio stated that he will ask members who have suggestions to take on individual assignments to research items for the planning board and then put it on the agenda to form a subcommittee.
3. Because a motion is made in the positive, it does not mean you have to vote for in the positive. You need four positive votes to pass a motion.

J. Economic Development Discussion

Discussion: Mr. Cervasio asked about new vs. existing businesses. Lisa Johnston stated we need new businesses and also need to support old businesses by helping them to be more successful. Ms. Johnston stated that traffic on Rt. 6 is a deterrent; people cannot pull out safely out onto the road.

Joe Carey presented Plainfield, CT, as an example. They allow a 5-year tax freeze for existing businesses to expand. Mr. Cervasio suggested the Mr. Carey and Ms. Johnston get together and bring forward a plan.

Anthony Renzi suggested getting help from the State Commerce Commission. They are bringing businesses into other areas.

Mr. Cervasio restated multiple possibilities, reviewed past discussions, and reiterated the lack of foot traffic and the opinion that retail stores are dead.

Mike Carpenter discussed Providence Water Supply board not compensating the town for the watershed. He suggested they should help with low interest loans. Mr. Cervasio responded with information about Fidelity and the creation of an off ramp. Mr. Renzi said that if businesses want to come here then it can be done. Ms. Siciliano discussed CVS in Woonsocket. Mr. Renzi noted that the bypass will be repaved.

Mr. Cervasio said we keep trying to work with what is. Mr. Sheldon said we don't know what we have to offer. Mr. Cervasio asked for the maps again.

K. Blight Ordinance

Mr. Cervasio placed this item on Future Agenda Items.

L. Future Agenda Items

- Report on Electricity – Mike Carpenter
- Zoning on Route 6 – Anthony Renzi
- Locating existing maps – Jennifer Siciliano
- DEM regulations for wetlands in regard to zoning – Joanna Achille
- Advisory opinion for Town Council – Marijuana Ordinance
- Letter regarding procedures for the Capital Improvement Plan budget
- Blight Ordinance
- 5-year Road Plan

Motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Helen Hardy, Secretary