

Planning Board Meeting Minutes

Hybrid Meeting, Benjamin Eddy Bldg., 6 South Killingly Road
Wednesday January 19, 2022

A. Call to Order

Anthony Renzi, Chair, called the meeting to order.

B. Roll Call

Planning Board Members: Hilary Downes-Fortune; Michael Carpenter;
George Sackal, Warren Ducharme, David Paolissi; Anthony Renzi
Secretary, Helen Hardy, excused.

Staff and Council present: Michael Antonellis, Planner; Kelli Russ, Finance Director,
Police Chief Breit, Gordon Rogers, Denise DiFranco, Town Council President; and
Joanna Achille, Solicitor.

Public present: Michael Barnes, Superintendent; Brendan Mara, School Committee;
Thom Walden, Engineering; Lynne Rider, Ron Cervasio

C. Approval of Minutes

December 16, 2021 No meeting was held on this date.

D. Site Plan Review – 183 Danielson Pike, AP 10 Lot 25-C;

David Paolissi, DP Properties LLC

The applicant was not requested postponement.

E. 2021-2022 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Anthony Renzi stated that he did not feel that this was a job for the Planning Department but for a finance committee, nevertheless he was ready to move the presentation forward to the Town Council.

Ron Cervasio agreed that a Finance Committee should be handling it.

Michael Antonellis said the Planning Board received all the different materials from the departments. He and Kelli summarized all the requests and carryovers from previous fiscal years.

Department Presentations:

Captain Isaac Paine Elementary:

Dr. Barnes from Capt. Isaac Paine School presented his capital requests for the school. There were two continued from last year. One was to move the well from the inside of the building to the outside, including building a pump house. \$333,000, this would be the second half of that request. The second is for the playground off the kindergarten /

preschool area. The main playground has been removed. The smaller playground would renovate for \$60,000. There was discussion regarding future projects such as the septic system and replacement of emergency generator.

Engineering Board (including Volunteer Fire Dept.)

Thom Walden requested \$100,000 for a fire truck, \$25,000 for a rescue (an inadequate amount at that rate), and communication equipment to add another radio site. Mr. Renzi asked about accruals. Kelli Russ said they were carrying forward \$275,000, so adding another \$125,000 would come to \$400,000. Last year there were repairs that were \$90,000 for their fire trucks so that depleted some of the funding. Mr. Carpenter asked if that was factored in. Mr. Walden said that it was arranged to buy a fire truck outright. Mr. Renzi asked if it would make sense to increase the allocation. Ms. Russ said it should be okay for now but that they can evaluate going forward. Mr. Antonellis requested a list of vehicles. Mr. Walden said he should have it and that it hasn't changed, but he would update it. Mr. Cervasio questioned the money allocation. Ms. Russ said that there is also the issue of maintaining twelve trucks; that's a lot to carry for one town. Mr. Renzi said they will have to work on the numbers. Mr. Renzi asked about the radio equipment. Mr. Walden said it would be for a new tower on Cucumber Hill Road.

Finance/Town-wide

Kelli Russ said that all capital funds combined was \$1,800,000. They are looking at ARPA funds; they may be able to cover some of this. Also, the police have discussed the need for a communication console and a tower in the new building. There are a lot of moving targets. The bill for the police station is coming up and we don't know very much about that. Ms. Russ reviewed the current financial status and future issues.

Police Department

Chief David Breit stated that they spent \$30,772 for final lease payments on two previous vehicles. They have ordered two more for this fiscal year but the order is pushed back. They are planning funding for a third vehicle for 22-23 budget. Current carryover for 21-22 is \$59,040. No new requests for other vehicles.

There is a need for radio system. A new console for the new building is \$130,000. A new tower is \$400,000. He has looked into other options; one which is a lease but will cost more money. It's not feasible to move the tower from Foster Center over to where they will be. Mr. Renzi asked how long they could work with the tower that they have. Chief Breit said until they move. Mike Carpenter discussed other towers in town, and sharing towers with emergency services.

Department of Public Works

Gordon Rogers included \$350,000 for maintenance from the Road Assessment Plan. This is from the estimate they provided on paving. \$100,000 for completion of the Wash Bay project for an enclosed building with a drain system. Mill Road Bridge repair for \$60,000 for engineering. \$47,000 for a lease purchase on a Mac Truck. Used roller to go with the paving box, which will also be used with the wash bay. \$30,000 and we will be self-sustaining on road repairs. \$80,000 for a 6-wheel truck to sand and plow. We have six main routes and six large trucks. Mr. Rogers reviewed the current fleet of trucks and the need for a new one. He noted that Hemlock and Anthony Road bridges need repair, but he recommended taking them off the list for now because of the cost. Mike Antonellis said they needed a total amount. Ms. Russ said it would be \$667,000. She suggested the maintenance of the roads should go into Operating rather than Capital; improvement could go into Capital.

Discussion about cell towers and shared usage. Mr. Renzi asked about the Recreation Field. Mike Antonellis said there is \$50,000 needed for that. Mr. Renzi asked if the second phase of that had to be done. She said that it was because of grant money. Mr. Renzi asked if that could be given back. Ms. Russ said she would not make that decision.

Mr. Renzi asked for a motion. Warren Ducharme moved, Hilary Downes-Fortune seconded, to forward the recommendations as presented to the Town Council for \$826,500.00 after adjusting the Engineering by adding \$125,000 and Public Works subtracting \$100,000 to move to Operating /expenses.

Motion passed 7 – 0.

F. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Antonellis, Planner