

Planning Board Meeting Minutes

Benjamin Eddy Bldg., 6 South Killingly Road
Tuesday, January 24, 2023

A. Call to Order—Planning Board

Anthony Renzi called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

B. Roll Call

Planning Board Members: Mike Carpenter; Bill Gibbs; Susan Joyce; David Paolissi; Anthony Renzi; Secretary, Hilary Downes-Fortune.

Excused: Warren Ducharme

Staff present: Jennifer Siciliano, Interim Planner (via Zoom); Joanna Achille, Solicitor (via Zoom); Susan Dillon, Town Clerk; Kelli Russ, Finance Director; Gordon Rogers, DPW; Michael Barnes, School Department

Public present: Ron Cervasio

C. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Renzi asked for a motion to approve the December 7, 2022 minutes. Mr. Carpenter made the motion; Mr. Gibbs seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

D. Election of Officers

Mr. Renzi asked for a motion for the election of officers. Mr. Carpenter made a motion to move the slate as it stands; Mr. Paolissi seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

E. Capital Improvement Program (CIP) 2023-2024

Ms. Russ ran through the overview of the budget, with about \$2.6M remaining in capital. Of this about \$1M will go to the police department to offset debt, and some of the remaining \$1.6M goes to the school department. She said that budgeted funds that don't get used are rolled over and earmarked for ongoing projects.

Supt. Barnes presented the school department's new capital requests for stage flooring and for bollards to be installed at six entrances to the Captain Isaac Paine School building to prevent vehicles from entering the building. Total estimated cost for the two items is \$26,500. Mr. Cervasio mentioned that the glass block walls in the roof allow for significant heat loss. Ms. Downes-Fortune asked if new energy efficiency funding under the Inflation Reduction Act could be used to pay for repairs. Mr. Renzi recommended that the school get an energy audit done.

Ms. Dillon presented a proposal for a new A/V system for the Eddy Building, total estimated cost about \$25,500. She is waiting for a second quote. The Town is also planning to add a separate internet service to the building as the current service is unreliable.

Mr. Rogers presented the DPW's capital budget requests, including the need for an engineering study/design for lighting at the new recreation field (and Foster Fairgrounds); paving to be done in accordance with the Beta Engineering Report; an additional 6-wheel dump truck for plowing, etc.; and a Bobcat skid-steer loader. Discussion ensued regarding the potential uses for the Bobcat and a recommendation was made to purchase a larger, more versatile piece of equipment, at an estimated cost of \$90,000 instead of the \$50,000 originally requested (cost to be spread out over two years).

Ms. Joyce asked why the Engineering Board request is not in our packets, and was told the Engineering Board has been going directly to Town Council instead.

Mr. Renzi asked for a motion to approve each department's budget request individually.

- Ms. Downes-Fortune made a motion to approve the School Department's request for \$26,500; Ms. Joyce seconded. Motion passed 6-0.
- Ms. Joyce made a motion to approve the Town Clerk's request for \$25,500 for IT/Communications Equipment for the Eddy Building; Mr. Gibbs seconded. Motion passed 6-0.
- Mr. Paolissi made a motion to appropriate \$150,000 to the Engineering Board's budget; Mr. Gibbs seconded. Motion passed 6-0.
- Ms. Joyce made a motion to approve the request by the Police Department for \$59,500 for equipment; Ms. Downes-Fortune seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

For the DPW, Mr. Renzi asked for item-by-item motions:

- Mr. Paolissi made a motion to approve \$350,000 for paving; Mr. Gibbs seconded. Motion passed 6-0.
- Mr. Paolissi made a motion to approve \$30,000 for the Bridge/Dam Plan and Lighting Engineering; Mr. Gibbs seconded. Motion passed 6-0.
- Mr. Paolissi made a motion to approve \$62,863 for the truck lease payment; Mr. Gibbs seconded. Motion passed 6-0.
- Mr. Paolissi made a motion to approve \$62,863 for the truck lease payment; Mr. Gibbs seconded. Motion passed 6-0.
- Mr. Paolissi made a motion to approve \$90,000 for a new 6-wheel dump truck; Mr. Gibbs seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

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- Mr. Paolissi made a motion to approve \$45,000 for a new Bobcat skid-steer; Mr. Gibbs seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

F. Adjournment

Mr. Renzi asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Joyce made a motion to adjourn. Motion passed 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted.

Hilary Downes Fortune, Secretary