

TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

6:00 P.M. Tuesday
October 5, 2010

MINUTES

Present: Chair Leo Smith, Leslie Lewis, Roland Patten, Richard Freitas, Leandra MacDonald, Sue Chollet, Susan Stanbury, and Bertha Harris.

Also Present: Carol Ogilvie, Director, and Laura Norton, Administrative Assistant, Office of Community Development.

Town Clerk Linda Guyette swore the members in and Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Welcome and Opening Comments:

Chair Smith welcomed everyone “to the first meeting of the CIP for Fiscal Year 2012 to 2017.” He added “it is nice to see a full table of folks.” Chair Smith went on to note he felt it “is going to be a real challenge to meet the goals we will be setting.” He added “the tax rate implications of the school are potentially a big impact, I think it is going to be tight. He told the members that they would get a sense of what the tax rate will look like over the next few weeks” concluding with “it is going to be a tight year.”

Chair Smith then asked the two new members to introduce themselves. Richard Freitas noted he had moved to Peterborough several years ago, had built a home on Old Mountain Road and was an alternate member of the Planning Board. Susan Stanbury followed by noting she had moved from New Jersey to Peterborough in July of 2009. She noted she had worked in municipal government and wanted to get involved again.

Ms. MacDonald noted the importance of the CIP Committee and told the members she encouraged the Planning Board members to serve a year of two. “It is very illuminating; to see how the capital flows really makes a difference.”

Mrs. Harris noted “in the past town departments have been held within a certain percentage increase” and asked if that number had been determined for the new fiscal year. Chair Smith replied “I don’t know to be honest, but the general tone is to be flat with where we have been.” Ms. Ogilvie agreed noting “we have not officially heard anything but the message is pretty clear that this year is no better than last year.”

Election of Officers:

Ms. MacDonald noted “we had a good group last year (referring to Chair Smith and Vice Chairman Leslie Lewis). She asked both if they were willing to serve in their capacities again

this year with both agreeing to do so. A motion was made/seconded (MacDonald/Patten) to elect Leo Smith as Chairman and Leslie Lewis as Vice Chairman to the CIP with all in favor.

Review of the Meeting Schedule:

Chair Smith began by noting “tonight is the organizational meeting” adding “but next week looks like a big week.” A brief discussion about all the Public Works factions (Highway, Water, Wastewater, Recycling, and Buildings and Grounds) followed. Ms. Chollet noted she would not be able to make that particular meeting. Ms. Ogilvie explained that the CIP Binders “while not in final form, have everything but Recreation.” She added “we also have not had a request from the Open Space Committee for a particular amount, and the Library may also have a request.”

Chair Smith recommended everyone review the binder for the upcoming week and certainly if they had any questions (especially Ms. Chollet) to e-mail them to him. On that same note Ms. MacDonald noted she would not be able to attend the November 16th meeting.

Ms. Ogilvie also noted that Mr. Freeman of the Water Resources Committee may or may not be back to make a repeat presentation of his request for a bedrock water quality assessment. She added “he has a justification sheet in the CIP so another presentation may not be necessary.” Ms. Stanbury asked if a copy of the presentation could be e-mailed for review with Ms. Ogilvie noting she would follow up and mail that out.

A very brief discussion about the amount of time each department may require followed. It was agreed that next week with Mr. Bartlett would most likely be the longest because of all the components of the Public Works Department. “We better count of a couple of hours” said Chair Smith. Ms. Lewis asked “can we start earlier? Like 5:30?” Chair Smith replied “that might be a good idea, even if only for next week and that department.” Ms. Ogilvie told the members she would follow up with Mr. Bartlett and post the meeting for 5:30 if he was available. Ms. Stanbury noted a commitment on Tuesdays that may make her late for a 5:30 meeting but that she would do her best to be on time.

A brief discussion about the School District followed with Ms. Ogilvie reporting some paperwork had arrived earlier that day that she would have to go through.

Review Status of Current CIP and Capital Reserve Funds:

The members reviewed the finalized CIP from last year department by department.

Mr. Patten pointed out that the Land Acquisition Capital Reserve was the largest item of all the capital reserve funds, with over \$440,000.00. Chair Smith interjected “I hope they can come in and talk to us about it.” Ms. Stanbury asked if they had anything in the pipeline with Chair Smith replying “they have, but not really much in the past couple of years.” Ms. MacDonald noted the monies most recently had been used in facilitating some conversion easements and helping with legal fees or easement fees. “That small amount of money seems to make a big impact” she said.

When reviewing the Public Works Department a brief conversation about repaving costs and responsibility ensued. Ms. MacDonald noted she had no problems with repaving but she did wonder about the financial responsibilities “when a perfectly good road is put down and then someone comes and digs it up (for a water project). And if they (the Utilities Division) dig up the whole road shouldn’t they pay for repaving it?” she asked. Mr. Patten interjected that the sewer line extension through the area of Cheney Avenue was done improperly “then it settled and it has been that way for the last 20 years.” It was noted that the area had been “dug up” several times over the years with Mr. Patten noting “yes, but they never did it right.” Gil Duval was in the audience and agreed stating “I am being very quiet but I am very upset.”

The members went on to briefly discuss the Recycling Center, the Transcript Dam and the Pool at Adams Playground. Chair Smith concluded by noting “it looks like we will have our work cut out for us, we’ll see what happens.”

Mrs. Harris asked about any “carry-overs” from the approved budget last year. She went on to explain “these would be things that did not get done because other, more important things came up.” The members noted the Transcript Dam and the sidewalk projects had both been “pushed out.” Mrs. Harris then asked about an article she read in the newspaper about creating an oval at Main, Concord and Pine Streets, adding “I cannot visualize it.” Ms. MacDonald interjected “we will have to talk to Rodney about that.”

A brief discussion about the status of the Main Street Bridge project and the potential for a north crossing bridge followed. In reference to the northern crossing Ms. MacDonald reminded the group “it is just an idea, no engineering has been done. First the concept then the engineering” she said. She also noted that the recommendation of a traffic oval and keeping the bridge open throughout construction had been made by the Board of Selectmen, adding “and that recommendation has gone to the DOT for consideration.” Ms. Lewis noted “Hunt and Summer or Main and Concord, either way someone is going to have to take a hit.”

The members had a brief discussion about the potential for a north crossing bridge and its fate when the project is completed. Some felt the bridge could be maintained for restricted access passage for emergency vehicles, while other thought it could be preserved as a pedestrian/bicycle crossing. Mr. Patten pointed out “DOT will only pay for a temporary bridge.” He went on to note an example of a “temporary bridge” in Keene, NH that is still being used for vehicle traffic. Mr. Duval interjected “and it has been condemned four times but it still handles traffic.” Mr. Duval went on to note “there is nothing wrong with a temporary bridge as long as it is a toll bridge, if you want to use it, you pay for it.” The members responded with laughter and Ms. MacDonald noting “it will be interesting to hear Rodney next week.”

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m. with the reminder that Ms. Ogilvie would check with Mr. Bartlett and the meeting would be posted for 5:30 p.m. next week.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Norton,
Administrative Assistant