

Municipal Facilities Planning Committee Minutes

Monday, September 12th, 2011

Members Present:

Bruce Clarke
Stephen J. Comtois II
Donald Faugno
Peter Martell
Jeanne Myers
Don Taft
William R. Simpson

Members Not Present:

Roger Mundell Jr.
Carol Plumb

Citizens Present:

John David Holdcraft
Police Chief Michael Blanchard
William Scanlan - Consultant

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Mr. Comtois followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Mr. Comtois requested that Mr. Scanlan present options for grant funding to the board and field questions as they arose. Mr. Scanlan indicated that the major source of grant funding was the Community Development Block Grant program, which primarily had funds available for accessibility projects and senior centers through the CDF2 program.

Mr. Clark mentioned that we should keep an eye open for new Federal funding opportunities that may arise from the new Federal Jobs/Stimulus Bill.

Mr. Taft asked about the limits on available funding. Mr. Scanlan answered that \$800,000 is the max available for any single year.

There was some discussion on available construction ready architectural documents, and Mr. Faugno indicated that construction ready documents had been put together in the year 2000, and a new feasibility study had been completed in 2010 for a revised town hall renovation project.

2. Mr. Comtois indicated that Mr. Martell and he are now voting members of the committee.
3. The committee proceeded to tour the new building owned by the town on Prouty Street, the Fire Station, and the Town Hall from top to bottom.
4. Discussion about a pending tree removal project for the dead trees on the Prouty street property. The committee had no objections to the town spending \$1,200 to remove the dead trees on the property.
5. Discussion on Snow and Ice Breaks. Mr. Clark has observed that snow and ice sheets from the roof of the town hall create a serious hazard around the perimeter of the building reaching as far as the road. The committee agreed that the current ice breaks are insufficient and generally agreed that a stronger snow fence is needed. Also, the issue of falling slates continues to be a problem and Mr. Holdcraft mentioned that the town should consider options that would act as slate catches to prevent the possible damage from falling slates. Mr. Comtois, and Mr. Taft agreed to do more research.
6. Mr. Taft motioned to approve the minutes of 8.1.11, Mrs. Myers seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously with Mr. Faugno abstaining.
7. Police Chief Blanchard was asked to participate in a discussion on the possibility of regionalization for the police station and about his thoughts on the various options for the station. He indicated that he did not want Brookfield's department to be a guinea pig for an untried concept such as a shared station with another town, but would be interested if he saw that such a project was successful in other places. Chief Blanchard also indicated that a stand alone building was preferable for the purposes of privacy for sensitive issues.

Mr. Comtois proposed the idea of turning the Prouty street property into a safety complex, and the possibility of combining the police station with a senior center.

Also, it came up that we are too late to put together a CDBG grant proposal for this year as they are due on the 14th of December.

There was also discussion about the State police barracks as a possible future location for the Brookfield police.

8. Mr. Simpson requested that Mr. Faugno present to the committee the findings of the Barrier removal committee at the start of the next meeting. This was agreed upon as a good idea, and Mr. Faugno agreed to make a presentation.

9. Mr. Comtois asked the questions of “Do we want to move forward with renovating the town hall?” and “Do we want to exclude the possibility of a Police Station in the Town Hall?” The committee agreed that these are important questions that need to be further considered.
10. The next meeting date is scheduled for September 26th at 6:00 pm in the Town Hall.
11. The Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 with a motion by Mr. Simpson and 2nd by Mr. Taft.

Respectfully submitted,

William R. Simpson

Approval:

Approved at Meeting on October 17th, 2011 by unanimous vote.