

PLANNING BOARD WORKSHOP
Capital Improvements Program
MINUTES
JANUARY 17, 1995

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Beecher, Scott Rawding, Charlie Reynolds, Mike Bobinsky, Reuben Hull, Martin Smith, Bob Corsetti, Lee Martel, Bob Belmore, Brian Preston

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Stancel, Planning Director and Jacqueline Freeman, Recording Secretary

Chairman Cole started the workshop at 7:13 PM.

Charlie Reynolds thought that the Department Heads should prioritize their CIP items.

Paul Beecher said the Tolend Road Landfill and Enterprise Park Financing must be done. He said his priorities would be City Hall Renovation, Streets & Bridges and maybe \$150,000 for the Technology Upgrade. Mr. Beecher said that the boiler at the school is critical and a portion of funds need to deal with school maintenance.

Bob Corsetti said he feels all these things can wait a couple of years. He wants to see how it affects the tax rate. He said he doesn't want to take the million we're retiring and spending it. He said he feels some streets and technology will have to wait.

Ron Cole said it is the Board's mission to make decisions on what is important or urgent.

Ed McCabe said he would give the Council recommendations to spend money related to maintenance to not have larger expenditures in the future.

Mr. Beecher said he would like to see all of this but what can the City pay for?

Ron Cole started a list of the items that the Planning Board felt were necessary.

Mr. Beecher said that the City Hall Maintenance and Space Need will deal with the overcrowding. He said that Public Works has a less than ideal situation. He said that we did a space needs study and making space in the Auditorium was more cost effective. He said we would gain 3,200 sq. ft. It would allow Engineering to come up to City Hall. It would eliminate the need for builders and developers to go back and forth from City Hall to River Street. It would get everyone in the same building and would produce better staff interaction and be better for the public. He said the \$250,000 would also be used to treat the acoustics of the building. The offices would take up the back third of the Auditorium.

Scott Rawding said he is not totally in favor of the renovations. He said he is against the timing, and can't see putting one quarter million in this year or next year. He said he doesn't feel it's a priority. The idea is good but it's bad timing.

Bob Corsetti agreed with Scott but added it might end up saving us money. This might buy the City two or three years.

Bob Belmore said he hates to pay taxes also, but the Board must look at the CIP from a planner's point of view and forward what the needs of the City are as if we had the money.

Mike Bobinsky said he has three staff on River Street. He said the superintendent is in an office located in a garage and four engineering staff are on top of each other. He gave an overview of the conditions of the Public Works buildings.

Bob Belmore said he would like to see the information technology improvements stay.

Charlie Reynolds said the information technology should be a priority but to bond software licenses and software is irresponsible.

Mr. Beecher said he believes that the hook-up to the telephone company is critical. Mr. Beecher said the things that we don't fund this year should slide to the following year.

Scott Rawding said that Portsmouth has a Pepsi truck as a squad vehicle. He suggested contacting them to find out how they did it.

Steve Stancel said that the full amount of the bridge and 150 parking spaces got the OK from the Council. He said if we get the grant it will have to be matched. He added that about 48 parking spaces could be leased out. He spoke on the parking need for the Clarostat building.

Ed McCabe said in regard to the Maglaras Ball Fields that he does not recommend it be put in right now, but if they get participation it may be possible to come up with some money.

Scott Rawding said he was on the Little League Board of Directors. He said they spent \$80,000 for a new field and it is 3/4 paid for. He said a lot of people did work at cost. He suggest the contractors who worked for Southside Little League be contacted.

Brian Preston said that he does not believe in funding the City Hall Maintenance & Renovation.

Scott Rawding said from a planning standpoint it is not the time and not the place.

Bob Corsetti reminded everyone this was a workshop and nothing was written in stone.

The list of items to fund that came out of the discussion in order of priority is as follows:

CIP

1. Information Technology - City & School	\$150,000
2. School Maintenance	\$ 50,000
3. Streets & Bridges	\$350,000
4. City Hall Maintenance & Space Renovation	\$250,000
5. Pedestrian Bridge	\$ 45,000
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	\$850,000

The Workshop ended at 9:10 PM