

**CITY OF NORWALK
LAND USE COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 9, 2010**

PRESENT: Torgny Astrom, Chair; Frances DiMeglio; Walter Mc Laughlin; Donald Nelson; Michael Chieffalo; Steven Ferguson (7:48); Joel Zaremby (8:20)

STAFF: Mike Wrinn, Frank Strauch; Brenda Hrtanek

Ms. DiMeglio called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

I. CAPITAL BUDGET

a) Review and recommend Capital Budget

I. Police Department

Mr. McLaughlin stated that the new boat for the department was a good priority. The Committee agreed.

II. Fire Department

Mr. McLaughlin asked about the possibility of repairing the Fairfield Avenue station in order to avoid needing to refurbish the entire station at the other site. Mr. Wrinn explained that the department had hired a consultant and run a study concerning the project. He added that the property would go back to the State, if it did not remain a firehouse.

The Committee made an adjustment to the Finance Department's recommendation for the 5-Inch Hose Replacement project.

Mr. Zaremby cited the Plan of Conservation & Development's recommendations for fire hydrants in Cranbury and West Norwalk.

III. Planning and Zoning

Ms. DiMeglio asked if DPW had any similar plans for a citywide traffic study. Mr. Wrinn explained how the purview of the two departments varied, as far as traffic and build-out.

Mr. Astrom asked if it were possible to conduct the study in two steps. Mr. Wrinn described the plan briefly, stating that some of the work would be done by staff and also that a consultant would be hired,

Ms. DiMeglio asked for an explanation of the budget request for the Waterfront Access project. Mr. Wrinn discussed the need to finish a project.

There was a discussion of unspent money from last year in the Bikeway Plan project.

Ms. DiMeglio asked why funding for Parking Analysis came out of the Planning and Zoning Department. Mr. Wrinn explained.

The Committee discussed the Gateways project. Mr. Strauch confirmed that there were about 20 physical gateways to the City. He reiterated that uniformity at the gateways was a goal. Mr. Ferguson said that he supported the funding for the project, which had been denied by the Finance Department.

Mr. Wrinn agreed to have Planning and Zoning work with DPW on the Sidewalk Study project.

The Committee made an adjustment to the Finance Department's recommendation for the Sidewalk Study project.

Ms. DiMeglio noted that funding for Market Analysis should come out of Tad Diesel's office and the Redevelopment Agency.

The Committee discussed the request for a Replacement Sound System in the Council Chambers. Mr. Astrom said that the item should come out of the IT Department's budget.

IV. DPW

After some discussion of the Finance Department's recommendations for various projects, Mr. Astrom stated that the Committee was not qualified to debate the numbers and should accept the Finance recommendations.

Mr. Chieffalo asked about getting a citywide standard for LEED certification.

Ms. DiMeglio asked if there had been any good faith effort to obtain a consultant for the Tokeneke Bridge Removal project. Mr. Wrinn addressed the idea of placing a condition that the town of Darien commit to paying for half the project. He added that a 50% match, plus the agreement to explore alternate methods of demolition, could also be posited. Ms. DiMeglio emphasized that DPW had taken no initiative on these conditions. Mr. Zaremby noted that Darien had turned down such proposals in recent years.

The Committee adjusted the Finance Department's recommendation for the Sidewalks and Curbing project, by moving \$50,000 from this project to the Planning and Zoning Department's Sidewalk Study plan. There was a discussion

of the specifics of pavement management. Mr. Wrinn clarified that footpaths were different from sidewalks and that no funding was allotted for footpaths.

The Committee discussed the importance of the Walter Avenue Sidewalks and curbs project. Mr. Zaremby noted that three schools were served by this particular sidewalk.

V. Board of Education

Mr. Astrom pointed out that equipment was cheaper this year than it was last year.

Mr. Ferguson noted that the department had not spent the funding it asked for last year for Technology Implementation.

VI. Recreation & Parks

The Committee made an adjustment to the Finance Department's recommendation for the Hungarian Monument.

Mr. Ferguson asked if the \$85,000 would expand Devon's Place playground. Mr. Wrinn said that it would simply replace equipment, noting that the equipment was expensive.

VII. Library

There were no adjustments to the Finance Department's recommendations for the Library.

VIII. Historical Commission

There was a brief discussion of the code requirements indicated for the Lockwood-Matthews project.

IX. Redevelopment Agency

Mr. Chieffallo stated that the West Avenue Lighting project funds might be better placed in the Urban Connectivity project. There was a discussion of the advantages of the lighting project.

X. Health Department

The Committee made no adjustments to the Finance Department's recommendations for the Health Department.

XI. I.T.

There was a discussion of how to move along the IT Department's projects more effectively. The Committee discussed the need for a new sound system in Council Chambers.

Mr. Astrom noted that the IT Department had indicated specifically what it had accomplished the prior year, adding that only the IT Department and the Historical Commission had indicated this information for the Committee's booklets.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Charlene Smith.

