

CAPITAL FACILITIES PLANNING & BUDGETING COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 11, 2012, Tracy Hall - Multipurpose Room

Members Present: Ed Childs, Neil Fulton, Tom Gray, John Lawe, Evan Pierce, Barry Rotman, Richard Stucker
Absent: Tom Sterling
Secretary: Nancy Kramer
Others: Watt Alexander, Andy Hodgdon, Steve Leinoff, Doug Robinson, Nate Stearns

Tom Gray, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

1. Review of Agenda. After minimal discussion the agenda was left as is.
2. Public Comments. None.

3. Update on Communications Plan and Tower. 6. Public Forum on Communications Tower Preparation. The public forum is scheduled for June 20th at 7:00 pm. Fulton talked about the regional 6 or 7 site simulcast coverage and passed out maps showing VHF In-Street Talk-Out and Talk-Back. Fulton also discussed the tower sites and said five have towers now. Fulton briefly explained the broadcast system and its benefits. The key missing ingredient is the tower in Norwich. Hartford has applied for a grant to put a simulcast site on Hurricane Hill. This would significantly increase the coverage. The Committee then discussed the regionalization of dispatch, problem areas and repeaters in vehicles. The coverage in Norwich will drop to 36% when the bandwidth narrows January 1, 2013. Next steps are the Act 250 process and financing. Fulton is suggesting the possibility of a bond vote on the tower at the August 28th primaries. The Committee also discussed possible questions and answers that might come up at the forum June 20th and agreed that examples of coverage issues needed to be provided. The Norwich Selectboard will have a roundtable discussion of the communications plan and tower at their June 27th meeting. Fulton said the decision by the Selectboard to hold a bond vote would have to be made at their July 11th meeting.

Alexander stated that he appreciated the time that is being spent on the tower and communications. He lives close to the site and said the tower will have a visual impact on those living in the neighborhood. He also believes it will have an impact on property values and that people who will be impacted need to be prepared.

Gray's response was to let the Committee know if you have any additional ways we can improve the process and that he will search for information on how towers have impacted property values on the internet. It was agreed that Gray and Fulton will work on updating the PowerPoint presentation used for the last forum for June 20th.

4. Update on Public Works, Fire and Police Facilities Deficiencies and Functional Needs Analysis. Fulton said that the report from the consultant was not complete and he has identified a number of items that need to be fixed before bringing the report to the Committee and Selectboard.

5. Update on Town Pool Dam Consulting Services. The consultant is working on and has already identified that there is no reinforcing steel in what remains of the structure. Replacement of the Pool is probable. They are looking into ways of dealing with overflowing and a simpler way to put up and take down. The next steps are a public forum in July or August, a decision by March of 2013 and a rebuild in June. The consultant is optimistic this can be accomplished.

7. Review Minutes. **Childs moved (2nd Pierce) to adopt the April 12, 2012 minutes. Motion passed.**

8. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 am.

Approved by the Committee August 9, 2012.

Nancy Kramer, Secretary

Tom Gray,
Chair

Future Meetings: TBD