

CAPITAL FACILITIES PLANNING & BUDGETING COMMITTEE
Public Forum Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 15, 2011, Tracy Hall - Multipurpose Room

Members Present: Ed Childs, Neil Fulton, John Lawe, Barry Rotman, Tom Sterling

Members Absent: Tom Gray, Evan Pierce, Bob White

Others: Linda Cook, Phil Dechert, Joshua Durst, Pete Webster

Neil Fulton called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

1. Reviewed Committee's Handout: Summary Scope of Work and Key Dates.

2. Public Comments.

a) Discussion of the difference between General Funds and Reserve Funds.

Appropriations to the general fund must be in the fiscal year appropriated. Appropriations to reserve funds are not restricted to one fiscal year. An increase in the general fund balance at the end of a fiscal year may be applied against the next year's appropriations thus reducing the taxes needed to be raised. If a future purchase for which Reserve Funds have been set aside is deemed no longer necessary, the balance of these funds can be used for a different purpose after approval by town meeting. For instance Reserve Funds were set aside for a Fire Department Training Facility. When this project was cancelled, the funds were transferred to the Tracy Hall Designated Fund.

b) Question about the committee's assumptions on population growth. The previous Capital Planning Committee used the Massachusetts Institute for Social and Economic Research (MISER) Population Projections that projected an 8.7% increase in population, between 2000 and 2010. The recent census found that the population decreased from 3,544 to 3414.

c) Question about whether the Parsonage is once again being considered for purchase. The committee answered that any and all projects of interest to the residents of Norwich will be considered.

d) Wood Chip Boiler. It was noted that Montpelier has approved expansion of the area served by their a wood chip boiler and that the Energy Committee is reviewing something similar that could be used to heat not only town buildings but possibly some local businesses as well.

3. Adjourn. **The meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.**

Adopted by the Committee June 23, 2011.

Neil Fulton,
Vice-Chair

Future Meetings: Thursday, June 23, 2011 at 8 am
Wednesday, June 29, 2011 at 6:30 pm