

Draft Minutes
Capital Facilities Planning & Budgeting Committee
August 7, 2014

Committee members present: Ed Childs, Ernie Ciccotelli, Neil Fulton, Tom Gray, John Lawe, Evan Pierce, Barry Rotman, Tom Sterling, Richard Stucker (left @ 8:40 am)

Members absent: Joshua Durst, Dan Goulet, Harry Roberts

Others present: Andy Hodgdon, Nancy Kramer, Keith Moran, Doug Robinson, Matt Swett, Rob Wolfe

Gray opened the meeting at 8:00 am. Sterling asked if the Town could rebuild the Norwich Pool if they paid for it. Fulton responded that a permit is still needed and gave a brief update.

Review and Approval of Agenda

Gray asked for changes or additions to the agenda saying that Roberts, who couldn't attend, asked if expanding/renovating the existing Town facilities could be added to the agenda of the Committee's next meeting. Without objection, the agenda was approved.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of the June 20, 2014 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of June 20th were approved without objection.

Review List of Alternative Sites

Fulton said the list included some other sites the Town looked at none of which are on a public water supply system. The Town posted three times to the Norwich Listserv requesting suggestions for additional sites. Fulton briefly reviewed the sites on the list that included the Upper Valley Event Center, The Car Store, Barrett Field and Dresden Fields. When asked why the Public Works site was not on the list, Fulton responded that all the usable space is occupied or planned for use by Public Works and the rest would require significant excavation including areas that have been used for the disposal of municipal waste. Also, there is no Town water and fire protection systems, which require considerable water, are needed for both police and fire. There followed some discussion of The Car Store site and the possible benefits of improving water supply in that area for business.

Review Memo from Town Manager and Department Heads

Fulton said that he and the Department Heads had reviewed all of the options developed to date and made recommendations based on the criteria listed in the memo. They are recommending the ABC Dairy site for both its operational and economic benefits. Details are listed in the memo. Phased options are listed on page 4 including Public Works Option

2. Pierce responded that he took the decision of the Selectboard to not pursue price or suitability of the ABC Dairy site to mean it was off the table. Other members present agreed. Fulton said he wanted to complete the analysis to provide the best information he can so that decisions are made based on the best information available. From the recent Selectboard survey, he said the current site has the best support, although there is support for areas up to one mile from the current location. The survey also made it clear that the Town needs to phase the process to keep the costs down. It would be difficult to find an alternative location for fire apparatus during construction so the current Fire Station needs to be operational during construction. Fulton said the asking price for ABC Dairy is too high but even at that price the recommended program is economically viable. Fulton passed out a diagram for the current fire/police site and said if that site is selected the Town should consider including the purchase of the Grange and what used to be the Marcus house in the long-term plan. Rotman said he continues to have concerns with the ABC Dairy site saying there is a vocal element in town that wants the Police Station downtown. Pierce has studied the survey results and is frustrated that people do not want the ABC Dairy site even though it is economically viable and believes the Committee needs to gain public support for improvements that are needed. Stucker said he believes the Committee's focus should be on developing a plan for the current police/fire location. Lawe said the Committee needs a single approach. Ciccotelli asked why a demographic study had not been done by an outside expert and said he thought it was important to do. After discussion, the Committee generally agreed that the Town Plan has done that study and did a good job of looking at future demographic changes and trends. Fulton then said the DPW facilities have been identified as the most critical with the Police Station as second from prior studies. Fulton recommends building a facility that would house administration for both police and fire, keep the current Fire Station and make improvements and double the DPW building by building behind the current Highway Garage that in the long-term plan was proposed for cold storage and adding heat. After some further discussion, Pierce **moved** (2nd Rotman) that going forward the Committee work with the phased option at the existing sites as discussed in the memo. **Motion passed 7-0 (Childs, Ciccotelli, Gray, Lawe, Pierce, Rotman, Sterling)**. Afterwards Sterling asked if the project could be brought in for less saying the Town would coalesce around a smaller number more easily. There followed a brief discussion of what constituted a quorum for votes by the Committee. It was agreed that 7 constituted a quorum.

Future Meeting Times and Dates

Fulton will discuss with Bread Loaf the Committee's vote. Gray will poll the Committee on availability once an approximate date for the next meeting is determined.

Adjourn

The Committee adjourned at 9:23 am.

By Nancy Kramer

Tom Gray,
Chair