

Minutes - DRAFT

Public Body: Planning & Construction
Date: April 11, 2023
Location: Hybrid (Zoom and City Hall Meeting Room)

Members Present:

Jean Wall (Chair)
Mike Pratt
Nancy Hazard
Amy Proetti
Carole Collins

Members Absent:

Emily Eash

Staff Liaison:

Caitlin von Schmidt

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:36 pm.

Jean gives a summary of Capital Improvements Committee recommendations:

- Fire Department: Engine, yes.
- Portland Loo: Yes, with ARPA money.
- Police Department: They still have money from last year.
- DPW: All requests approved.
- Carole: discussion of clean vehicles.
- Central Maintenance: Replace old library roof (no); covering over back stairs (yes).
- Rec: Highland Park wayfinding signs (yes). Bocce courts (yes, CPC). Pickleball (\$50,000 from CPC to make shovel-ready).
- Schools: Energy-recovery units at GMS (grant covers about 2/3, balance to be covered).
- GCET: \$85,000 (no).
- Sewer: I & I, \$300,000 (yes). Dumptruck (yes).
- Water Fund: \$400,000 for water mains (yes). \$45,000 for Millbrook (yes).

Site visits recaps. 20 Sanderson St. and City Hall are in bad shape. Jean says one idea is to turn Green River School into offices and use the gym for storage. The superintendent is investigating whether it's possible (money taken requires it to maintain an educational purpose). Amy reports enrollment is declining but there are good ways to use GRS (e.g., housing coordinated special ed programs). Staffing would be an issue. The schools are interested in having a central elementary school, or maybe have all elementary in GMS and all the middle school in FSS. It would take \$1-2M for a study, with some reimbursable. It would be next January before we could start. Amy says the conversation is very preliminary. Remodeling and reconstruction is very expensive and facilities are outdated. Jean wonders if current schools could be housing. Carole says planning takes a lot of time and money but is worth it.

Question comes up – is there an organization that does what NESDEC does but for municipalities? How can we find out about offsite document storage? Deerfield and Erving are both working on document storage.

Nancy makes a motion to adjourn; Mike seconds.

Adjourned.