

Budget Committee

Public Meeting

August 24, 2006

Chairman Carrier convened a business meeting of the Budget Committee in the Ilene P. Reed training room, located at 74 Lockehaven Road, Enfield, NH, 2005 at 6:05 PM.

PRESENT: Lee Carrier - Chairman, Gayle Hulva - Vice Chair, Eric Crate, Shirley Green, Dominic Albanese - Selectman, Richard Martin, Judy Finsterbusch, Bob Cusick, Lori Bliss Hill

ABSENT: David L. Stewart

GUESTS: Dan Kiley, Marjorie Carr - Librarian, Nancy Scovner - Selectman, Bart Thurber – Library Trustee, Judy Kmon – Library Trustee, Francine Lozo – Library Trustee, Dr. David Beaufait, Chris Lizotte from Sheerr McCrystal Paison Engineering Associates PA

Administrative Staff: Steven Schneider - Town Manager, Wendy Huntley – Recorder

- **Administrative**

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 6th, 2006 public hearing was made by Lori Bliss Hill and seconded by Judy Finsterbusch. Lori Bliss Hill wanted to amend the minutes by correction of typographical errors, changing the fourth line on page three, under the section titled Heritage Commission to read: “David L. Stewart asked what signs?” Gayle Hulva wanted to amend the minutes by correction of typographical errors, by eliminating the “e” on the end of Paradis on page two, under the section titled Oak Grove Street. Lori Bliss Hill wanted to amend the minutes by correction of typographical errors, changing the eighth line on page nine, under the section titled Conservation easement on the Bicknell Brook Property to read: “Dominic Albanese added that the remaining acres are permanently protected. This is the only way to get permanent protection”. A motion to approve the minutes of the February 6th, 2006 public hearing as amended was made by Lori Bliss Hill and seconded by Judy Finsterbusch. All in favor. (Eric Crate absent) Motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 6th, 2006 meeting was made by Lori Bliss Hill and seconded by Lee Carrier. Gayle Hulva wanted to amend the minutes by correcting the spelling of her name. Judy Finsterbusch wanted to amend the minutes by correcting the spelling of her name. A motion to approve the minutes of the July 6th, 2006 meeting as amended was made by Lori Bliss Hill and seconded by Shirley Green. All in favor. (Eric Crate absent) Motion carried. Eric Crate arrived at 6:26PM.

Presentation and general discussion of the proposed 2007 Capital Project titled Library and Town Office renovation.

Steven Schneider distributed a handout titled “*Strengthening the Heart of Our Community; Renovating Whitney Hall for Today and Tomorrow ~ Facility Committee Presentation to the Budget Committee*”.

Dominic Albanese began the presentation with reviewing the guiding principles of the renovation project.

Chris Lizotte continued the presentation with a general overview of the proposed renovations.

Steven Schneider reviewed the process to date.

Bart Thurber distributed a handout titled “*Strengthening the Heart of Our Community; Renovating Whitney Hall for Today and Tomorrow ~ Design Criteria*” and described the current space limitations and needs of the Library facility.

Steven Schneider presented the financial aspects of the proposed \$3,700,000. renovation project.

Dan Kiley added that no matter which office, Town or Library, remained in the current Whitney Hall building, all the mechanicals need to be as updated as the mechanicals installed in the new building. This is the project we need to do now. No cutbacks. This project needs to meet the needs for the next twenty years.

Break 7:07 – 7:15PM

Lee Carrier opened the floor for a question and answer session:

Bob Cusick asked whether there were any Towns comparable to the Town of Enfield that does not have a library?

Marjorie Carr responded that she was not aware of other towns the size of Enfield not having a library. Dorchester and Orange do not have their own libraries. Also some towns in Coos County do not have libraries.

Bart Thurber added that Canaan is expanding their existing library. Both Dorchester and Orange made small contributions to the Town of Canaan.

Bob Cusick noted that the library seems to be school oriented. Feels that the perception of the public will be that the renovations will be oversized for this town. This will be a hard sell. Need to bring perception and reality together. Regarding perspective, sell it by:

a.) The town building is falling apart. Repairs need to be done no matter what.

And

b.) The Library an asset to the Town and needs to be maintained.

Stay away from the cost till a number is firm.

Steven Schneider agreed. The Town is trying to be transparent with the cost. May need to emphasize the need more than the cost.

Dominic Albanese stated that he was amazed how little impact \$3,700,000 has on the tax rate. (Refer to handout “*Strengthening the Heart of Our Community; Renovating Whitney Hall for Today and Tomorrow*”, page titled “*Financing Plan*”).

Judy Finsterbusch agreed with Bob Cusick that the library is very important to the Town and thinks that the cost of renovation/construction should not be emphasized. These improvements will increase the asset value to the Town.

Nancy Scovner commented that people always ask how much first.

Lee Carrier would like to get into the nuts and bolts. If the Budget Committee wants to go forward and spend the money, how do we sell this?

#1) is this the right decision?

#2) how do we present this as the Budget Committee?

Lee Carrier questioned that the original proposal had the Planning/Zoning Administrator and the Building/Health Inspector in the Town Hall.

Dominic Albanese responded that was the last Committee. We are comfortable with the Planning/Zoning Administrator and the Building/Health Inspector staying in the DPW facility.

Lee Carrier was concerned that there was no expansion potential for the Town Offices like there is for the Library in the 20year plan.

Chris Lizotte explained that the meeting rooms slated for the ground floor level can be altered to accommodate future Town Office space needs.

Lee Carrier asked what happened to the idea of two buildings?

Bart Thurber responded that having two buildings required two elevators, stairwells, mechanicals, and double the meeting space.

Lee Carrier felt that choosing one building was locking the Town into not being able to expand the building after the twenty years.

Chris Lizotte explained that currently the Town Offices have 2008 net square feet. By moving up to the current Library level would give the Town Offices 2860 net square feet. This is an increase of almost 30%.

Shirley Green spoke of how she had attended the City of Lebanon's meeting for expanding their City Hall. The community was horrified. They didn't do a good job with their presentation.

Lee Carrier believes that pushing now to get the work out will make things easier later.

Nancy Scovner believes that the Town Office Employees need to get out of the basement.

Lee Carrier questioned what the increase of elevator speed would be with three-phase power.

Chris Lizotte answered that the motor will have to be changed, but the elevator will then be as fast as one would expect.

Dominic Albanese added that the cost of switching the motor was already figured in the cost.

Bert Thurber stated that the Trustees are anxious to see this in a 3D model but want to be sure before model is built that we know what we want.

General discussion regarding parking was had.

Lee Carrier asked what the next step would be?

Steven Schneider responded that Marjorie Carr had he would be interviewing four construction mangers (CM).

Bart Thurber informed the Committee that Sheerr McCrystal Paison Engineering Associates PA had come in at Budget or even under Budget with other projects.

Lori Bliss Hill felt that the Budget Committee needs more information regarding the cost of the renovations so decisions can be made. What about the issue of the elevator taking space from the stage during the last renovations?

Nancy Scovner explained that the stage would be returned to its original state.

Lori Bliss Hill stated that she would like to hear from Marjorie regarding the renovations.

Marjorie Carr explained that she likes the proposal very much. The time is here for expansion and this plan will serve the community for at least twenty years. Marjorie stated that she feels confident this is the project to do.

Dr. David Beaufait noted that the Whitney Hall area needs improvements and that compromise is needed from all, elections, the arts, etc.

Bob Cusick recommended staying away from discussing the cost when meeting with other groups. Get input on the design. Tell about the health and space issues. It also is important to know the square foot in relation to people. This presentation was great in explaining the needs for the library but not for the Town Offices

Lee Carrier, Judy Finsterbusch, and Gayle Hulva all recommended not doing a tax rate comparison.

Bob Cusick recommended that the presentation prove the need for what you have now and focus on improving what you need.

Lee Carrier commented that Bart's presentation pulled at the heartstrings ~ good. The Town should have a similar presentation.

Bart Thurber recommended that a presentation for the third floor not be forgotten. Pitch the project as Whitney Hall with three important Town functions.

Judy Finsterbusch added that the three parts are each as important as the whole.

Bob Cusick recommended showing taking a dysfunctional interior and converting it into functional space.

Dr. David Beaufait recommended that the presentation pull at the heartstrings, but more quickly and include all three of the component in about the same length of time that Bart Thurber presented just the library.

Bob Cusick recommended that the presentation also include comparisons of other Towns of comparable size.

Nancy Scovner added that the presentation should hit the pride of the people.

Steven Schneider informed the Committee that the next presentation would be for the Planning, Zoning, and Conservation Boards, in September.

Lee Carrier recommended that overheads with bullets; may be helpful for the presentation.

Steven Schneider spoke as to how the presentation will be structured toward the group for which the presentation would be made. This presentation was focused on the money because it's the Budget Committee.

Lori Bliss Hill reminded the Budget Committee that during the meeting of February 6th, Lee had made the statement that there were three top revenue generators, motor vehicles, rooms and meals tax and that he would bet back to her on what the third one was. Lori still would like to know what the third one is.

Lee Carrier will have to get back to Lori Bliss Hill.

Nancy Scovner asked what the status was of the sub-committee reviewing the regional associations.

Lee Carrier explained that Eric Crate, David L. Stewart, and Judy Finsterbusch would get together with Nancy to discuss.

Nancy Scovner said that she would also invite Diane Monmaney (Human Services Director) to the meeting.

Action Items

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn came forward at 8:20PM from Lee Carrier with a seconded from Lori Bliss Hill. Motion carried.