

LONG RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

July 11, 2023

ATTENDANCE AND CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 a.m. via Zoom Webinar remote participation, by Robert Gotti.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 on March 29, 2023, Governor Maura Healey signed into law An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2023 to Provide for Supplementing Certain Existing Appropriations and for Certain Other Activities and Projects. This Act includes an extension, until March 31, 2025, of the remote meeting provisions; July 11, 2023, the Long Range Financial Planning Committee meeting was conducted via remote participation. R. Gotti granted permission to record the meeting.

Members present: Robert Gotti, Julianne Bride, Nancy James, Melissa McDonagh, Paula McLaughlin, Christopher Pfaff, Maya Plotkin, Paul Tucceri, Dan Weller, and Skip Wells. Absent, Nancy Hyde and Philip Shapiro.

Ex- Officio Members present: Christopher Coleman, Molly Kean, Nora Loughnane, Todd Korchin, Stephanie McManus, and Jimmy McCarthy. Absent, Patrick Ahearn, Tim Piwowar, Lemma jn-Baptiste, and Elijah Romulus. Patricia Healey recorded the minutes.

M. Plotkin provided an update on School Capital Planning. At a previous meeting, M. Plotkin provided information on potential roof issues at the Sheehan School, Thurston Middle School, and Westwood High School. The Schools are able to manage the roof issues at Sheehan and Westwood High School. However, the roof issues at the Thurston Middle School (TMS) and a potential HVAC system repair/replacement will need to be addressed. The TMS work is estimated to cost \$3M to \$4M. Per M. Plotkin the building is structurally sound and the strategy is to keep the building going for the next 20 years.

R. Gotti shared a summary list of major projects. The next step would be to determine an estimated need for each project, an estimated timeline, estimated costs, and potential outside grant opportunities. C. Coleman stated that a professional study would be helpful to develop a plan for each building, especially to determine a dollar amount.

J. Bride asked if the town has done any planning for the Route 109/High Street corridor. R. Gotti stated there is a need for continued commercial growth to maintain the town's split tax rate, but there is not a formal plan in place. N. Loughnane stated three properties on High Street could be viable for re-development but all are privately owned and the owners are currently not interested in selling. At the 2023 Annual Town Meeting, the town rezoned the property that houses Westwood Pizza to be eligible for mixed-use development.

P. Tucceri asked to consider the plans for the Deerfield School as part of the redevelopment of Route 109. R. Gotti stated the Deerfield School is under the care, custody, and control of the School Department.

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The Community Preservation Act (CPA) Working Group is comprised of Nancy Hyde, Julianne Bride, Melissa McDonagh, Skip Wells, Chris Coleman, and Stephanie McManus. The Working Group has focused on CPA and to see if Hale could be used as a potential anchor project. The group did not discuss the specific details of the Hale CR but reviewed the potential connection with a CPA.

The timing for CPA approval:

1. Town Meeting approval
2. Election Ballot Passage
3. If successful, form a CPA Committee and establish a real estate surcharge
4. The CPA Committee would make recommendations to a future Town Meeting for use of CPA funding for specific projects

The timing does not work for the current timeline for the Hale CR proposal. For if the town approved the CPA at the 2024 Annual Town Meeting, the earliest the CPA Committee could recommend the use of funds would be at the 2025 Annual Town Meeting. R. Gotti asked if we could determine from other towns who have passed CPA, if those towns had anchor projects under consideration at the time of approval.

Public and Press

Kathy Sullivan, 283 Farm Lane, asked can you elaborate on how the school department figured out how to manage the Sheehan roof and HS roof funding? Reserve funds intend to use – working through options.

Response: M. Plotkin stated the School Committee is still reviewing, but two sources are the school reserve funds and a potential capital article.

Fran Fusco, 20 Pine Lane, asked in regards to Hale, has the Select Board ever considered acres from Hale added to the MBTA zoning?

Response: N. Loughnane stated the town has considered all parcels in the town and is still considering them. The concern with any parcel that is part of Hale is the traffic access to the properties.

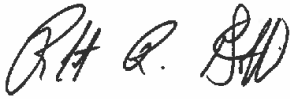
Next Meeting – August, 22, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom

ADJOURNMENT

S. Wells moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 a.m. P. McLaughlin Seconded. J. Bride, aye. N. James, aye. M. McDonagh, aye. P. McLaughlin, aye. C. Pfaff, aye. M. Plotkin, aye, P. Tucceri, aye. S. Wells, aye, R. Gotti, aye.

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Initial after reviewed



Robert Gotti
Long Range Financial Planning Committee, Chair