

Town of Jackson Planning Board
Minutes – November 28, 2023 Working Meeting
- UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED

Call to Order: Chair Bill Terry called the meeting to order at 4:43 P.M. Chair Terry conducted the roll call of all members. In attendance were Planning Board Members Sarah Kimball, David Campbell, Dick Bennett, and Alternates Jerry Dougherty. Absent were Members Scott Badger and Kathleen Dougherty and Alternate James Wasco. The Select Board representatives were Chair Barbara Campbell, Bob Thompson, and absent was Frank DiFruscio. Public attendees were Emily Benson, Jay Henry, Fire Chief and Hank Benesh who recorded the meeting which will be made available on Jacksonflicks.com. Chair Terry stated that there is no need to determine voting Members tonight as no actions will require a vote.

Approval of Minutes: No Minutes were reviewed.

Public Comment: No comments not related to the Capital Improvement Program

Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Update: Chair Terry opened the meeting by stating the importance of estimating costs associated with each item within the CIP. He pointed out that the Library Board and the School Board are missing from the CIP as to what their needs and wants are along with any associated cost. It is understood that the School Board is working on onboarding the new principal and working on the high school project. Both issues are taking up most of their time. The Library is currently working on a strategic plan that will provide better guidance for capital improvements. He wanted to bring attention to everyone that he does not feel the CIP will be ready for budget time and able to produce warrant articles related to the CIP for this budget cycle. There was discussion about the possibility of presenting pieces of the CIP at the Town meeting and allowing the document to be a living document that can be reviewed and updated as the Town's needs arise.

Selectman Thompson and Alternate Dougherty discussed the location of the Fire Station and if additional sites were reviewed. Selectman Thompson explained that all Town owned locations were reviewed and it was determined that the site chosen was the best option for a new site. He pointed out that if the current site was used there would be additional costs such as site work and cost for relocation of current equipment. He stated that there is no current plan for relocation of equipment if we use the current location. He updated the group that at the recent community meeting regarding the Fire Station someone raised the question if they had looked at the site just to the north of the Town Office. He said they are looking into that possibility but does not think it will be a viable option.

Chair B. Campbell stated that if we are looking at priorities, the initial three are the Fire Station, the Highway Department garage salt storage roof, and a culvert repair that was just presented to the Select Board meeting. This culvert is a major culvert in town and will negatively impact the town. The cost for this culvert repair is reported to be around \$205K. Also included in the CIP was the cost of other culvert repairs as these all impact safety. The Planning Board and Select Board members all agree that these are priorities and that a warrant article could be ready for Town meeting.

Another CIP item discussed was the formation of a Housing Commission and initial funding for a Trust. The purpose of the Commission will be to investigate options available for affordable housing. The group agreed that it should be presented at Town Meeting.

Chair B. Campbell and Member Kimball reminded the group that it is important to determine the impact on the tax rate when we present any items at the Town meeting.

Member Bennett motioned to adjourn the meeting and Member Campbell seconded. The motion was approved unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 P.M.

Next regular Planning Board meeting is December 14, 2023.

Respectfully submitted by David L. Campbell, Secretary