

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

I. Roll Call

Present: Ed Magill, Eugene Simone, John O' Donnell, Joe Cardello, Steve Parent, Dr. Lucien Benoit. Absent: Bruce Santa Anna. Also present was Town Planner Michael Phillips.

II. Approval of Minutes—January 3, January 17, February 7, and February 21, 2008

Dr. Benoit made a motion to approve the minutes of January 3, 2008, as corrected. Mr. Magill seconded the motion, with all in favor.

Dr. Benoit made a motion to approve the minutes of January 17, 2008. Mr. Magill seconded the motion, with all in favor.

Mr. O' Donnell made a motion to approve the minutes of February 7, 2008, as corrected. Mr. Simone seconded the motion, with all in favor.

Mr. O 'Donnell made a motion to approve the minutes of February 21, 2008, Dr. Benoit seconded the motion, with all in favor.

III. Request for Referral to Zoning Board – DPR Section 17.3.2

Applicant: Jehovah's Witness

Location: 1054 Victory Highway

Assessor's Plat 1, Lot 151

Zoning: Rural Agricultural (RA-65)

Engineer John Andrews addressed the Board for the applicant. The applicant would like to go before the Zoning Board to seek a special use permit before presenting the site plan to the Planning Board. Dr. Benoit asked if there is an existing building on parcel. Mr. Andrews replied that there are no buildings on this parcel, but there are houses on either side. There is an existing small foundation from a previous home. Dr. Benoit suggested modifying the proposed parking so the wetland buffer will not be disturbed. Dr. Benoit also asked about a couple of drilled wells and whether they are within the footprint of proposed building. Mr. Andrews approached Board's table to review the plan, and stated that he will check it out; it is possible that the circle on the plan is one of the test wells on the property. The Chair stated that a locus map would be helpful during further review.

Dr. Benoit made a motion to send the applicant to the Zoning Board to seek a special use permit, with the understanding that they will return before Planning Board for development plan review. The motion was seconded by Mr. Magill, with all in favor. Planning Board vote was as follows: AYE: Mr. Magill, Mr. Simone, Mr. O' Donnell, Mr. Cardello, Dr. Benoit.

Motion passed, with a vote of 5-0.

IV. Capital Budget Review

a. Police Department

Captain Tom Lafleur of the police department addressed the Board. He presented the department's capital budget requests, beginning with 4 fully-equipped cruisers. The Board and Captain Lafleur discussed why such a large fleet is necessary and what is done with the old vehicles. The Board agreed that rotating in two new vehicles per year could keep fleet running well. The Chair asked for a breakdown of the requested \$164,000 and asked the department to figure out what they can live without. He asked if they would rather have more cruisers with fewer options, or do they really need fully-equipped cruisers.

The police department also requested accident reconstruction software. The request includes the cost to train one officer on how to use equipment. In response to Dr. Benoit's question, Capt. Lafleur stated that no other police departments in Rhode Island have this software. The Board discussed whether this software could be shared under a mutual aid agreement. The Board suggested looking into state resources and having all departments share in the cost of the software.

Other requests included firearms, which Mr. Phillips suggested putting under their operating budget, a service contract for the dictaphone system and a new heating and air conditioning system. The Chair asked Capt. Lafleur to get an estimate for the air conditioning for the cellblock area only, then prioritize the other areas.

b. School budget.

Superintendent of Schools Stephen Lindberg addressed the Board. He stated that for all Halliwell School projects, he is not recommending funding this year because they are not sure what will happen with that site in the future.

The main request was for middle school technology. They thought it would be included in the bond but were informed they could not use the bond money for technology expenses. Mr. Lindberg also discussed performance based contracting, and had Mr. John Perry explain the concept to the Board. The school department will continue to explore this method as a potentially money-saving plan for the future.

Eric Butash, School Technology Director, presented the Board with the detailed request for technology for the new middle school. Mr. O' Donnell provided suggestions on how to get better warranty service

on equipment.

Bob Desrochers, School Facility Director, outlined his list of requests which included asbestos removal, bleacher repair, stage refinishing, gym floor refinishing, new cafeteria tables, new library furniture, steam coils over the gym and the auditorium, a water tank for NSES, new gymnasium floor at NSES, and window replacement in Wing C of NSES.

Mr. Lindberg closed by stating that for this fiscal year technology at the middle school is top priority.

c. Public Works

Public Works Director Ray Pendergast addressed the Board and stated that his main requests are for a new one-ton truck with a sander and plow and an 18-foot landscape trailer for the Department of Parks and Recreation.

d. Budget Recommendation

The Board discussed their recommendations for the Capital Budget, based on the presentations of the town's departments and Mr. Phillips' recommendations. Mr. Phillips made note of all Board recommendations. Mr. Magill made a motion to send the Planning Board's recommendation to the budget committee. The motion was

seconded by Dr. Benoit, with all in favor.

V. Adjournment

Dr. Benoit made a motion to adjourn at 10:00 pm, seconded by Mr. Simone, with all in favor.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Angela Pugliese
Planning Board Secretary**