

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Administration & Education Subcommittee

There was a regular meeting for the above-referenced subcommittee held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Present were: Councilors Leon Rivers, Robert Berman, Donna Banks, Joan Gamble and Mayor Sydney Schulman. Also present were: Louie Chapman, Jr., Town Manager, Wayne Casper, Mark Weisman and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council. Absent were: Deputy Mayor Hypolite and Councilor Joseph Merritt

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m.

Update on all School Building Committees

Mr. Wayne Casper reported on the following School Building Committees:

High School – The status of the high school renovations are status quo. There is a meeting scheduled for January 5, 2012 to finalize the roof bid, which is fully reimbursable by the State. Additional renovation items such as the bathrooms and emergency generator will consist of one bidding package, which will shorten the bidding process. Mr. Casper should have tentative figures regarding these items by next month's meeting. However, Mr. Casper stated that there are some minor punch list items for the project that need to be addressed.

Carmen Arace – The project is 100% completed on construction. There are some punch list items that still need to be addressed. New scoreboards for the gym have arrived and will be installed. This project will complete closeout procedures prior to the high school. There is approximately 300,000 – 500,000 in surplus remain from this project. The roof has been 100 % replaced as well.

Elementary Schools:

Metacomet Elementary

Mr. Mark Weisman, Secretary for the Elementary School Building Committee gave an outstanding report for Metacomet Elementary School. The newly renovated school will

receive murals for the corridors by June, 2012. The Certificate of Occupancy has been successfully obtained. The procedures to closeout the project will be ongoing with the State and respective contractors.

It was noted briefly, that the Parent Teachers Association (PTA) members have voiced concerns regarding the implementation of playground equipment at the school. The building committee is in the process of researching costs to determine what equipment is needed. There will be a surplus of approximately \$500,000 to obtain various types of equipment. Some of these items may be reimbursable by the State, if it can be determined that the equipment is replaceable as a part of an initial school project. Mr. Casper will research the possibilities of obtaining reimbursement and at what level would be approved, if any.

Laurel Elementary

The project schedule, construction and budget are on target for opening September, 2012. There were some issues regarding cracking and deterioration with existing steel columns. The design team will look to repair existing columns as deemed appropriate during building construction.

Report to the Town Manager

Bloomfield Early Learning Center (BELC)

Mr. Louie Chapman, Jr., Town Manager presented an update to the committee regarding the Bloomfield Early Learning Center (BELC). The Town was successful in meeting the deadline date of December 16, 2011 in completing renovations at 330 Park Avenue for program implementation. The space was turned over to BELC administration on that date. There were several areas of renovation such as: hard wiring smoke detectors, carbon monoxide, increase lighting up to classroom standards, rebuilt heaters, carpet, painting, installed safety glass, repaired front door entrance, magnetic controlled fire door and minor repair work in home economic kitchen.

All spaces were inspected by the Fire Marshal and Health Inspector prior to release.

Due to the current legal status between the Town of Bloomfield and BELC, there have been no face to face meetings with administration regarding any sub-grantee agreements. It was suggested to BELC administration to discuss meal options with the Board of Education to provide breakfast and lunch.

BELC received additional grant funds from the State of Connecticut, which reduced the deficit to \$140,000 from \$330,000.

Police

It was noted that the Chief of Police has hired an African-American police officer that will begin the academy in April 2012.

The proposed budget from Governor Dannel Malloy may require the Town's to pay for officers to go to the Police Academy.

The department purchased several GM Impala's to replace front line cruisers.

Public Works

The Human Resources Department is currently advertising for a Public Works Director. The goal is to focus on long term planning for the department instead of reactive issues. The Finance Department would like the Town Council to consider committing to a certain level of funding for capital projects.

Finance – Storm Alfred Debris Removal

The general town audit is complete.

The town is currently completing the paperwork for FEMA reimbursement for Storm Alfred. This storm was far more severe than anticipated. The approximate cost for debris removal was about \$3,000,000. There was 150,000 cubic yards of debris collected, 4,000 tree hangers were trimmed and 1200-1500 trees were cut down.

Mr. Chapman, Jr., will have a comparative analysis for Council review at the next scheduled meeting. The town has begun to clean town owned property that will be completed in early Spring, 2012. CL&P has also assigned another representative to the Town of Bloomfield, who is a resident and has an operational background.

Old Business

Councilor Banks inquired about if there were any issues with seniors walking at 330 Park Avenue. Mr. Chapman stated that there have been no complaints or issues with seniors walking. However, an alternative walking route is being considered if needed.

Mayor Schulman received a complaint about a tree falling on a homeowner's property and damaging the exterior sidewalk. The resident was told that it was there responsibility to repair the damage by town ordinance.

Mayor Schulman also inquired about doing a reception for staff and volunteers during the aftermath of Storm Alfred.

New Business

Councilor Berman suggested that the Council should have a retreat to discuss goals and objectives for the upcoming fiscal year. A tentative date of January 28, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon will be considered.

Councilor Berman also suggested the Council review the evaluation of the Town Manager.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.