

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Administration & Education Subcommittee

There was a regular meeting for the above-referenced subcommittee held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 2, 2012 in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Present were: Councilors Leon Rivers, Joseph Washington, Donna Banks and Joan Gamble. Also present were: Louie Chapman, Jr., Town Manager, Donald Harris, Chair of Board of Education, Susan True, Barry Berson, Naomi Cohen and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council. Absent were: Deputy Mayor Hypolite, Councilors Joseph Merritt and Robert Berman, Wayne Casper, Director of Facilities – Board of Education

Guests present were: Deborah Lord, Executive Director of the Bloomfield Early Learning Center (BELC), Claudia Bell, President – Board of Directors for BELC

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Update on all School Building Committees

High School – In the absence of Mr. Wayne Casper, Director of Facilities for the Board of Education, Councilor Rivers reported that additional project bids have been submitted for approval and should be available at the next scheduled subcommittee meeting.

Carmen Arace – Mr. Barry Berson reported that no committee meeting has been held to have a quorum to execute the process to closeout the project. The project is 97.68% completed with about 2% left to payout. It was estimated that approximately, \$800,000 will be returned to the renovation budget.

Elementary Schools

Metacommet Elementary

Mrs. Naomi Cohen, Chair for the Elementary School Building Committee reported that there was a meeting held with Gail Nolan, parents, faculty and children to discuss concerns regarding the implementation of playground equipment at the school. The committee also conducted an exercise with the children and community regarding the actual design layout. There were 4 Request for Proposal of landscape architects. A playground manufacturer will be chosen from the approved list of the Bureau of School Facilities. The goal is to have the area be 100% accessible with the appropriate surfacing and to install suitable equipment for age range. The target date for installation is November, 2012.

A budget amendment will be filed with the Bureau of School Facilities for consideration of playground reimbursements.

Laurel Elementary

The project schedule, construction and budget are on target for opening September, 2012. The school is slated for completion by the end of June, 2012 due to the mild winter weather. This timeframe will give staff ample time to move in and set up for next school year.

Administrative Report from the Town Manager

Mr. Louie Chapman, Jr., Town Manager reported that the town received an Energy Saving Grant. These funds have been re-purposed to repair the cooling tower at Town Hall as well as Prosser Library. Several sequencing issues have arisen regarding the repair of the roof and cooling towers respectively. The deadline for completion of these projects is July 30, 2012.

It was reported that trees have been cleared to extend Mountain View Cemetery on Mountain Avenue.

A resident of the Hawthorne Apartments filed a complaint with the Town Manager's Office requesting an investigation of the Fair Rent Commission regarding an increase of rent by 10%. This commission is currently inactive and appointments should be made by Council for this complaint to be heard.

There are 4 stone walls on Prospect Street are in disrepair. The cost estimates for these repairs are \$20,000 - \$30,000. In addition to repairing the walls, resident yards will need to be excavated with proper drainage installation. At minimal, the Public Works Department will clean up the site.

A new Public Works Director was hired, John Lawlor. Mr. Lawlor will begin work on April 16, 2012.

All promotions have been completed within the Police Department. Positions will be backfilled from bottom to fill two budgeted vacancies.

The Leisure Services Department hosted an Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 31, 2012. The event was very successful in which 40 families participated.

Discussion to Amend Council Rules of Procedures for Public Comment

The committee decided to postpone this item until next subcommittee meeting in May.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion regarding the updates with Bloomfield Early Learning Center (BELC)

Mrs. Claudia Bell, President of the Board of Directors for the Bloomfield Early Learning Center (BELC) stated that progress is being made to ensure that BELC becomes self-sufficient. Several meetings have been held over the past month with Council members and town administration regarding the overall plan for the financial structure and physical needs of BELC. Mrs. Bell spoke in detail of an analysis of several reports regarding projected draft financial plan, enrollment data as well as an outline of a brief presentation that will be presented to Council on Monday, April 9, 2012.

Councilor Gamble requested a more detailed layout regarding the number of employees as well as a column to include repayment of debt service costs to the town. The remaining balance is approximately \$140,000.

Councilor Rivers inquired about possible savings in Food Service by contacting the Board of Education for assistance. It was reported by Mrs. Deborah Lord, Executive Director for BELC that the school was at their capacity for food preparation and distribution. A bid contract was issued for BELC and Lilly Caterers provide lunch service to the agency.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Banks and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.