

**BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 2007**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Neil Budnick	John Laird
Mary Davis Cody	Susan LaPerla
Kathleen Corbet	Roger Smith
Robert DiPanni	

Judy Neville, Chairman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert Spangler, C. Daniel Ward

ALSO PRESENT: Gary Conrad, Chief Financial Officer; Rob Mallozzi, Selectman-elect; Steve Benko, Recreation Director; Joan Guzzetti, member, Park & Recreation Commission; two or three members of the public and representatives of the press.

Ms. Neville convened the meeting at 8:10 p.m., called the roll and, on the motion of Mr. Smith and second of Mr. DiPanni, seated Alternate Mr. Budnick.

On the motion of Ms. Corbet and the second of Ms. Cody, the Board, with one correction, unanimously approved the minutes of the Special Meeting of October 16, 2007, Ms. LaPerla and Mr. Budnick abstaining because of absence.

At this point, Ms. Neville disclosed that the City of Danbury had today joined as the twelfth municipality involved in the litigation against the FAA, with a 12.1% contribution to the total expenditures of the alliance. Three other towns will be meeting within the next few weeks and may join as well. Each town that joins reduces the percent contribution of the other participating towns. If all the towns join, New Canaan's contribution could be as low as 6.3% of the total expenditures.

The Board addressed Item 2 on the agenda, **Discussion of the Flexi-Pave contract.**

Ms. Neville presented a sample of the Flexi-Pave material, which contains "fractured rock" a smoother material that won't release pebbles once cured. Because there is a possibility that colder temperatures will arrive soon, Ms. Neville explained that the contractor will not risk installing the Flexi-Pave this season. Over \$160,000 in private donations has been raised. The charge for freight may somewhat exceed \$12,000, but the money raised will cover this. The original contract will be amended to include the freight costs, and the contractor will hold his quote until April 1, 2008, when the work is expected to begin. The STEAP grant may be approved in the near future; \$20 million of STEAP grants have now been authorized by the State.

Ms. Corbet inquired as to maintenance costs associated with Flexi-Pave and what the life of the material is. Ms. Neville said that it has been in use in the Northeast for 4 years, and at this time the material does not require replacement as does asphalt. Flexi-Pave has a 5 year warranty, and there are no toxicity issues. Ms. Corbet asked what the Town or contractor obligation was with regard to bonding, and Mr. Conrad replied that the performance bond is the responsibility of the contractor. The Board of Selectmen need only approve the contract.

The Board discussed Item 3, **Approval of a request for an appropriation of \$275,000 from General Funds to fund the employee move to Irwin House.**

Mr. Conrad began by saying that the insurance recovery for flood repair and remediation of the lower level of Town Hall is expected to approximate \$207,000. These proceeds will be put into a reserve for renovations. The Land Use departments will be relocated to the Irwin House while renovations are completed. There had been discussion as to use of the third floor of the Police Department, but it was determined that because of the large volume of high density files, there would be a weight issue and this would not be a safe option. The ultimate use for this space will be for employees that cannot be accommodated at Irwin House. There is ongoing discussion as to off site file storage and the requirement that files be kept in a fire suppressed area. The high density file systems will fit into the Irwin House garage, where there are no weight limit issues. Parking is planned to be 22 parallel spaces, in the front and on the side of the House.

Planning and Zoning Commission approval is needed with regard to the change in use of the Irwin House from residential to non-residential use.

Most of the other costs are for electrical work, remodeling of a kitchen area, painting and cleaning, carpeting and modular office furniture. Once the employees are moved out of Town Hall, there will be an 18 month transition period for the renovations to be completed.

On the motion of Mr. DiPanni and second of Ms. Corbet, the Board unanimously approved an appropriation of \$275,000 from General Funds to fund the employee move to Irwin House.

The Board addressed Item 4, **Approval of a special appropriation of \$250,000 from General Funds for the completion of the shared parking lot at the Waveny Park Water Tower Fields.**

The Town will not meet the winter deadline for this project, and the Board of Selectmen had postponed action on the phased parking. The item will therefore not be taken up at this meeting.

The Board briefly discussed the upcoming budget discussions, which will begin in January.

This being her last Board of Finance meeting as First Selectman, Ms. Neville thanked the Board members for all of their efforts throughout her term. The Board thanked her as well for her hard work as First Selectman and as Chairman of the Board of Finance

On the motion of Mr. DiPanni and second of Mr. Smith, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert DiPanni, Secretary