

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

January 12, 2009

A special session of the Jamestown Town Council was called to order at the Jamestown Town Hall in the Rosamond A. Tefft Council Chambers at 93 Narragansett Avenue at 6:00 p.m. by Council President Julio J. DiGiando, for the purpose of discussing the Rhode Island DOT economic stimulus package. The following members were present:

Michael White, Vice-President

William Kelly

Robert W. Sutton, Jr.

absent: Barbara Szepatowski

also present:

Bruce R. Keiser, Town Administrator

Heather R. Lopes, Deputy Town Clerk Pro Tem

Michael Sullivan, DEM Representative

Mr. Keiser distributed to the Council a letter received today from the Director of DOT, Michael P. Lewis. The letter stated that projects that could be ready within 120 days from February would be considered as priority.

A list from the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Marcia Lukon, was also received today with a list of projects the school department would like to have included.

Mr. Keiser stated with the bonds received by the town, the work on replacing the water lines and replacing or relining the sewer pipes, has already begun. These are the top two projects the town would like to have included.

Councilman Kelly asked what the goal of this meeting should be. Mr. Keiser stated it would be helpful to prioritize the town's list of projects.

Councilman Sutton asked what the amount of money would be received statewide. Mr. Keiser said the federal amount is \$350 billion and Rhode Island could possibly receive approximately \$1 billion. Councilman Kelly asked what the priorities of the government would be. Mr. Keiser believes they will favor education, public safety, and environmental issues.

Councilman Sutton suggested the town includes Ft. Wetherill on the project list. Councilman Kelly suggested Mr. Keiser and a councilperson immediately begin to talk to our Congressional members. He states waiting to see what funds we would receive is not a good strategy and most of our projects are 100% ready and this is what they are looking for.

Councilman Sutton asked if a construction plan is ready for the water lines. Mike Gray, Town Engineer, replied they have a rough plan for the downtown area and it would not

be too difficult to add the surrounding area in the plan. Mr. Gray also stated that bids would also be included in the plan.

Councilman Sutton would like to look at projects that have continuous economic value with return values to the town's economic system. Councilman Sutton used a parking lot as an example of no economic return and would like the top priorities to be projects that have the best economic value i.e., wind energy and possibly the water lines. Mr. Keiser stated the water lines would be a good value due to their heavy financial burden on the residents.

Councilman Kelly asked about the Melrose School projects with student enrollment numbers declining and the necessity of new parking lots. Vice-President White agreed it is wise to contact the Congressional Representatives to get a feel from the delegation as to what they are looking for in projects and he believes the town's safety issues must be addressed.

Mike Sullivan, Director of DEM suggested some level of priority as early as possible. Mr. Keiser said there is a good chance that could be completed tonight. Water and sewer projects are ready to go. President DiGiando stated the wind project should also be at the top. It was suggested to keep the CBD-Downtown Improvements and burying overhead wires along Narragansett Ave. as two separate projects due to the wires not yet being approved by the state. Councilman White suggests including burying the wires up Conanicus Ave. to the Bay Voyage into the project.

Councilman Kelly asked if it would be beneficial to connect the storm water and sewer line projects. Mike Gray stated it would get the projects done faster. President DiGiando said DEM restricts storm water and sewer lines to be connected. Mike Gray also stated the importance of paving North Road and this being placed on the list.

A motion was made by Councilman Sutton and seconded by Council Vice-President White to create two lists, the 'A' list and the 'B' list. The 'A' list will include water lines, sewer lines, paving and roads projects, downtown district improvements, to bury overhead wires along Narragansett Ave and amend that to include along Conanicus Ave to North Bay View Drive and the wind turbines. The vote was unanimous.

Council President DiGiando asked Mr. Keiser to contact Senators Reed and Whitehouse.

A motion was made by Councilman Kelly seconded by Councilman White to close the meeting. The vote was unanimous.

The special meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Attest:

Heather R. Lopes

Deputy Town Clerk Pro Tem

c: Town Council Members (5)
Town Administrator
Town Solicitor
Administrative Circulation