

**REPORT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON DECEMBER 14, 2000**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Allen Wyett called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 10:00 a.m. on December 14, 2000, in the Town Council Chambers. On roll call the following Committee members were found to be in attendance: Chairman Allen Wyett, Committee Member Samuel McLendon. Town Staff in attendance for the meeting were: Acting Town Manager Thomas Bradford, Public Works Director Al Dusey, Town Engineer James Bowser, Town Attorney John Randolph, Finance Director Jane Skittone, Police Chief Frank Croft, Fire-Rescue Chief Vincent Elmore, Assistant Fire-Rescue Chief Kent Koelz, Director of Planning, Zoning & Building Robert Moore, and Deputy Town Clerk Susan Eichhorn.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved with the following amendments:

1. Yard Trash Regulations would be added to the Agenda for discussion, under Item IV. Any Other Matters.
2. The Town Hall needs study discussion would be primarily with concern to the proposed new Fire Station.

III. REVIEW OF TOWN HALL NEEDS STUDY ALTERNATIVES

**REPORT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON DECEMBER 14, 2000**

Fire-Rescue Chief Elmore reported that the 1927 Fire Station was in need of replacement, and recommended to the Committee that the Beaumont Lot be utilized for the building of a new fire station. He explained that the new station would provide adequate space for vehicle maintenance facilities for the Police Department as well as a physical fitness area for Town employees; in addition the space now occupied by the Fire Department could then be utilized for other Town Hall space needs. He recommended that the station include a third story, which would be used for storage space, and also for an emergency operations center. He noted that he believed that a great deal of the expenditures for an emergency operations center could be retrieved through grant funding; either through State or County FEMA monies.

Chief Elmore explained that currently there was not enough space for the fire trucks to egress from the doors (approximately 2-3" of clearance was available), and that the drivers could not see pedestrians until they were actually out on the sidewalk, which was a hazardous situation. In addition, the new emergency medical vehicles that would meet State requirements, would not fit into the current space. The Beaumont Lot would also be available for some parking spaces as well.

Director of Planning, Zoning & Building Robert Moore noted that a variance would be required for a three story fire station, however, governmental entities could waive zoning requirements for government buildings, if so desired.

Town Attorney Randolph advised that the zoning requirements could be waived by the government for its own buildings, however, the Town Council would need to determine what course would be followed. In the past the Town Council had chosen not to accept a waiver, and to proceed with the variance application process.

After discussion, **THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED that the Town Council follow its customary procedures for variance application for a third story on the proposed new Fire Station.**

Discussion took place concerning available staff parking places, and Mr. Moore pointed out that zoning regulations would require a certain number of spaces per square foot, and a creative system of parking was already being used in both the Australian and Beaumont parking lots. A parking plan would be submitted at a later date.

In response to the query of Committee Member McLendon, Acting Town Manager Bradford reported that the appraisal for 150 Australian had been \$850,000.

Police Chief Croft addressed the space needs of the Police Department, explaining that proposed expansion plans would include additional office space, meeting space, and storage space; vehicle maintenance and the fitness area would not be included in the expansion plans for the Police

**REPORT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON DECEMBER 14, 2000**

Department itself, however, those facilities would be shared with the Fire Department in the new Fire Station building. In response to Committee Member McLendon, Chief Croft advised that the sharing of storage space or meeting room space with the Fire Department would not be appropriate.

Discussion took place regarding converting the current gymnasium space in the Police Department to another use, which was not a part of the current expansion plan; additional funding would be needed for the conversion of that space.

After discussion, **THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED to the Town Council that selection and development of a new Fire Station be implemented on the Beaumont Lot, including Town Hall renovations afterwards, with funding to be determined by the Town Council.**

Acting Town Manager Thomas Bradford commented that various alternatives were available for financing/funding of the project, and he and Finance Director Skittone would provide information regarding financing at the next Town Council meeting (January 9, 2000). In response to Chairman Wyett, he noted that he and Ms. Skittone would recommend that the undesignated fund balance of the Capital Improvement Fund be utilized for the \$1 million authorized for the drainage program at the Town Council Meeting on December 12, 2000.

Discussion regarding the storm drainage system took place, with Mr. Michael McCloskey addressing the Committee regarding flooding at his residence at 202 Coral Lane. He suggested that an independent engineer be engaged to assess the overall drainage system to provide an audit/appraisal of the system.

Public Works Director Dusey commented that it would be worthwhile to conduct such an evaluation on one of the systems, and suggested the D-4 system be assessed to confirm standards and anticipated development. He explained that the original design had anticipated a certain level of development, however the system was not intended to provide all of the drainage for huge rainstorms. He indicated that he would provide cost estimates for the evaluation of the drainage system. He noted that Coral Lane did need drainage improvements.

Discussion took place regarding the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) criteria for permitting water to be drained into Lake Worth, and obtaining extra pumps for the pump stations to be used when the regular pumps were not in working order. Chairman Wyett requested that Mr. Dusey provide cost estimates for the extra pumps. Mr. Dusey replied that would be included in the whole package that would be put together; the budget would need to be amended, with two ordinance readings, before the funding would be available.

Acting Town Manager suggested that an emergency ordinance could cut down on the time needed for the adoption process, and Mr. Dusey could proceed with the consultants in the meantime.

**REPORT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON DECEMBER 14, 2000**

The COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED that the Town Council take the necessary steps, including possible emergency ordinances, to resolve improvements to the Town drainage system; that the Public Works Department be empowered to investigate all methods to alleviate flooding in the Town of Palm Beach, and to submit a comprehensive cost estimate of same.

At this time, Director of Planning, Zoning & Building Robert Moore commented that the Building Department would require additional space; rental space had been budgeted for that purpose. After discussion, it was determined that Mr. Moore and Public Works Director Dusey would work with the Town Manager to determine a solution to the space needs of the Building Department while the new Fire Station was being built, and to come back with a recommendation.

The COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED that the Town Council approve that Mr. Moore, Mr Dusey and the Town Manager work towards a solution to the space needs of the Building Department and come back with a recommendation.

IV. ANY OTHER MATTERS

A. Discussion of Yard Trash Regulations

Chairman Wyett commented that yard trash had been waiting to be picked up before the recent extraordinary rainstorm, and drainage/sewage problems had occurred in the Town.

Public Works Director Al Dusey commented that containerizing clippings had been considered in order to address the problem, and there were several options available, including an automatic one-armed truck system, or a plastic bag system – the annual cost of disposal was estimated at \$700,000.

After discussion, **THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED to the Town Council that the trash pick up schedule be changed to be four routes, Tuesday through Friday, during the winter months (November to May) and that Monday be scheduled as the bulk pick up day during the winter months (November to May).**

**REPORT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON DECEMBER 14, 2000**

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Allen S. Wyett, Chairman

Samuel C. McLendon, Committee Member

Prepared by:

Susan Eichhorn
Deputy Town Clerk
December 14, 2000