

Town of Mount Pleasant Finance Committee Meeting

March 6, 2017

Observer: Jeannie Harrell

Elton Carrier, chair; Paul Gawrych, Mark Smith, Gary Santos

Agenda Topics

3. Football Stadium at Lucy Beckham High School:

There was discussion of whether to spend funds for additional design work for the Lucy Beckham High School to build seating for a football stadium. The costs would be \$18,000 for a schematic design, and \$90,000 for a complete design. The current concrete stadium at the old Wando site will be demolished in 2018 because it would collapse in the event of an earthquake registering 6.2 on the Richter scale.

There was uncertainty among the committee members as to the CCSD's current plans: whether they already were planning to build 400 or 600 seats at the field, or possibly none at all, (it was unclear to). The referendum approved by voters several years ago (?) designated a large, state of the art, stadium to be built at the current Wando High School, which would be shared by the other East Cooper high schools that CCSD expects to build in the future. (There are some plans for another high school, closer to Awendaw.)

- Mr. Santos believes that each school should have its own stadium, and that this would be preferable for the students and their families, as well as reducing the traffic burden on Highway 17 and Carolina Park.
- Mr. Gawrych expressed concerns that the stadiums would not be comparable, since Lucy Beckham would be a smaller school and any stadium built would be considerably less impressive than Wando's, resulting in resentment.
- Mr. Carrier thought the Carolina Park residents' concerns about game night traffic were unreasonable, since that neighborhood has always been zoned for 300 acres of commercial (big box type) development.
- Mr. Smith seemed to be uncomfortable about circumventing the referendum, as well as authorizing \$108,000 to be spent without clarity as to whether anything would ever be built, and whether CCSD would contribute.
- Mr. Carrier, Mr. Gawrych and Mr. Smith voted against authorizing the funds, and the motion failed.

4. Principal Planner Position:

The new Principal Planner position was approved unanimously

5. Budget items:

All members were concerned about the changes being made at the state level, which have negative impacts on the town. Some went to Columbia to meet with legislators, and were disappointed in the responses.

6. Medical Director: Contract for Fire Department medical director was approved.

7. Developmental Impact Fees: The Development Impact Fees will be raised.

8. Pocket Park – Kenny Seamon: A request for town-owned land at 5th St. to be turned into a pocket park in a privately funded project in honor of Kenny Seamon – Passed.

9. Coleman Revitalization Bid: Bid regarding Coleman Blvd revitalization. Action not clear to observer.