

**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

February 18, 2009

7:00pm

County Complex, Building A

**A. Roll Call**

**Present**

Mr. Rich Krapf

Ms. Deborah Kratter

Mr. Chris Henderson, Chair

Mr. Jack Fraley

**Others Present**

Ms. Leanne Reidenbach, Senior Planner

Ms. Kate Sipes, Senior Planner

Mr. Brian Elmore, Development Mgmt Asst.

Mr. John McDonald, FMS Manager

**Absent**

Mr. Reese Peck

Mr. Henderson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Mr. Krapf said that he spoke with Mr. Larry Foster concerning some information on the JCSA master plan. Mr. Krapf stated Mr. Foster would be willing to attend a Policy Committee meeting to discuss their master plan and the regional water issues.

**B. Old Business – FY10 Capital Improvements Program**

Ms. Reidenbach provided the Planning Division's scoring of the capital projects. Most of the scores were carried forward from last year, but there were some new projects. Policy Committee rankings are requested for those projects asking for funding in FY10.

Mr. Fraley asked about Warhill Community Gymnasium, the 4<sup>th</sup> middle school, and the 9<sup>th</sup> elementary school, where no money was requested in FY10 but they were included in group 2.

Ms. Reidenbach answered that was more for informational purposes only. The two schools have been fully funded and are not asking for any additional funding.

Mr. Krapf asked if the fiber ring and similar investments would be funded at a later date.

Mr. McDonald stated at this point there was no funding for that CIP project.

Ms. Kratter asked if items without funding should be removed.

Mr. Henderson stated it should be left in, and if the Committee felt it was a high priority that might influence the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Reidenbach suggested pulling the two schools off of the ranking since they are funded already, but that the Community Gymnasium could remain even though no FY10 funds were requested.

A discussion then occurred with regards to the financing of the Warhill Gymnasium. Mr. McDonald stated that the County had hoped to finance the project so that it would be more accessible for community and recreational activities. Mr. Henderson and Mr. Fraley thought the project may warrant some discussion with regard to its ranking.

Mr. Henderson suggested marking projects dependent on bonds.

Mr. McDonald stated there is \$8.3 million in excess of bond proceeds from the new schools, of which \$2.5 million needs to go back into debt service. The residual could be used for a variety of projects. The initial proposal is to reallocate it to some school projects.

Mr. Fraley suggested ranking the projects, then discussing the financing.

Mr. Krapf stated that the first priority is to rank the projects in accordance to the community need criteria and then go back to the funding of these projects. Greenways were in his top five priorities due to citizen surveys constantly ranking them an important component of quality of life.

Ms. Kratter suggested the group discuss what criteria it would use and how it would apply those criteria. She asked how the group criteria fit with staff score sheets.

Mr. Henderson stated members were free to judge which projects best fit the community's interests. He said there was a consensus on items relating to health, welfare, and public safety. He noted the similarities in each member's top five priorities. He favors spending with the potential to reduce operating expenses.

Mr. Fraley, noting the Greenway Master Plan, supported Mr. Krapf greenways ranking.

Mr. Kratter stated the Greenway Master Plan was written during better economic times. She believed citizens wanted money spent on more critical needs.

Mr. Krapf urged caution in trying to intervene in master plans by second-guessing what the community wants.

Mr. McDonald stated the Greenway Master Plan depends on cooperative property owners. Implementation of the master plan was going slower than expected due to property rights issues. Any water quality improvements would be performed on County-owned properties first, then on private lands where necessary.

Ms. Reidenbach placed each member's rankings into the laptop and projector so the Committee could compare rankings.

Mr. Fraley stated staff scores were his starting point, although he often has a reason for prioritizing CIP projects differently than staff. He said it would be easier to determine top and bottom groups of priorities rather than develop the entire list at once.

Mr. Krapf stated his top eight rankings were for the police station, water quality, AFIS gym, greenways, mobile data terminals (MDTs), Warhill crosswalk, and Warhill facility bays.

Mr. Henderson stated the Warhill gym, the police station, water quality, school central office, security cards, crosswalk, New Horizons, and MDTs were his top eight priorities.

Mr. Fraley proposed ranking the police building as top priority, with water quality as second, Warhill gym third, and then the crosswalk, security cards, New Horizons, MDT's, and greenways.

Ms. Kratter stated her top eight priorities were New Horizons, security cards, crosswalk, central office, MDT's, fingerprinting, police building, and the gym.

The Committee compared and discussed rankings on the staff spreadsheet.

Mr. McDonald stated the New Horizons CIP request was not for tuition (which is paid for by the WJCC Schools operating budget), but for capital upgrades at the New Horizons site.

Mr. Fraley moved for the police building to receive first priority.

In a voice vote, the Committee recommended the new police building as the top CIP priority. (4-0).

Mr. Henderson moved for water quality to receive second priority.

In a voice vote, the Committee recommended water quality improvements as the second CIP priority (3-1; No: Kratter).

Mr. Henderson moved for the Warhill gym to receive third priority.

In a voice vote, the Committee recommended the Warhill gym as the third CIP priority (4-0).

Ms. Kratter moved for mobile data terminals as the fourth and the Warhill crosswalk as the fifth CIP priorities.

**In a voice vote, the Committee recommended the MDTs as fourth and the Warhill crosswalk as fifth CIP priorities (3-1; No: Krapf).**

Mr. McDonald stated the central office request was to relocate school administration and the ALL Academy to a new facility. The \$5 million price was the cost of a proposed new structure. Moving into James Blair would be significantly cheaper. He said the CIP memo to the Board should include a condition of taking over James Blair with the ranking.

Mr. Fraley suggested ranking the new school offices low with a recommendation for James Blair.

Mr. Fraley moved for the central office/alternative education facility, with a recommendation of refurbishing James Blair for the space, as the sixth CIP priority.

In a voice vote, the Committee recommended the central offices/alternative education as the sixth CIP priority, with a recommendation of refurbishing James Blair (4-0).

Mr. Krapf stated he was willing to drop his greenways ranking due to the potential hurdles involved but with the acknowledgment that greenways and trails were still an overall priority to the community, but fell lower in the ranking this year due to the economy.

Ms. Kratter moved for AFIS fingerprinting as the seventh CIP priority.

In a voice vote, the Committee recommended AFIS as the seventh CIP priority (4-0).

Mr. Krapf moved to recommend New Horizons as the eighth CIP priority.

In a voice vote, the Committee recommended New Horizons as the eighth priority (4-0).

Mr. McDonald stated the Jamestown multi-purpose gym was a secondary gym at the high school for winter sports, P.E. classes, and some community use. Most new high schools are built with a secondary gym. He noted the partial Lafayette auxiliary gym and the auxiliary gym at Warhill which was cut from the budget. The Warhill Community Gym would be available to all high schools, but they'll have to share it with the whole community. Transportation from Jamestown High to the Community Gym would be a strain on the bus system.

Mr. Henderson questioned adding an auxiliary gym at only one of the high schools.

Ms. Kratter said that attempting to make all three schools equal could delay needed improvements. She said there may be a stimulus effect from the gym's construction.

Ms. Kratter moved for security cards, the Jamestown multi-purpose gym, and greenways as the ninth, tenth, and eleventh CIP priorities.

In a voice vote, the Committee recommended the Jamestown multi-purpose gym, security cards, and greenways as the ninth, tenth, and eleventh CIP priorities (4-0).

Mr. Fraley moved for Warhill facility bays and fiber ring as the twelfth and thirteenth CIP priorities.

In a voice vote, the Committee recommended the Warhill facility bays and fiber ring as the twelfth and thirteenth CIP priorities (4-0).

Mr. Krapf stated the memo to the Board should state that some rankings deviated widely from staff recommendations due to the budget climate.

Mr. Fraley asked if anyone saw any errors with the rankings. He asked about funding the projects.

Mr. McDonald stated the funds for the LEC, Warhill gym, and Jamestown multi-purpose gym, ranked first, third, and ninth respectively, would have to be borrowed. He said the bonds could be marketed as soon as the Board approves the budget.

Mr. Henderson stated interest rates were at a low.

Mr. Fraley stated the Committee should convey to the Board that certain projects were worth going into debt. He also wanted the Board to be aware of a variety of funding sources for the projects, including federal funds.

Mr. Henderson stated the cost of the LEC would be equivalent to one year's worth of debt repayment, approximately \$14,000,000. He asked about adding the costs of the Warhill community gym, about \$4,500,000, to the County's debt.

Mr. McDonald stated the costs of operating two new schools in FY10 would probably prevent further borrowing. He said the County did not project increased revenues in FY11 or increased taxes.

Mr. Krapf stated that before next year's CIP, the Committee should assign values and weights to the categories Mr. Fraley suggested. He said the additional time built into the process beginning in the fall would give the Committee time to refine those values and weights.

Ms. Sipes asked if the Committee had decided on a new permanent meeting time. She said the Committee will be reviewing several ordinance amendments at next months meeting.

Mr. Henderson stated he wanted to set Committee priorities through the year. He wanted to keep their schedule relatively light during the Comprehensive Plan process. He would like to meet after Steering Committee meetings or before Commission meetings whenever possible.

Mr. Krapf stated he wanted to speak with Mr. Peck and Mr. Murphy before deciding on meeting times.

Mr. Krapf and Ms. Kratter suggested that before the next meeting they assign weights and values to the CIP rankings.

Mr. Henderson asked them to prepare a draft.

**C. Adjournment**

Mr. Fraley moved for adjournment, with a second from Mr. Krapf.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

7. C. Henderson  
Chris Henderson, Policy Committee Chairman