



**City of Derby  
Board of Alderman  
Special Meeting  
July 16, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Mayor Anthony Staffieri. All rose and pledged allegiance.

**Roll Call:**

Barbara DeGennaro - BOA President, Stephen Iacuone, Joseph DiMartino, Ronald Sill, and Carmen DiCenso.

**Excused:** Beverly Moran, Arthur Gerckens, Scott Boulton and Richard Dziekan.

**Also Present:** Dennis O'Connell - Director of Parks & Recreation, Keith McLiverty - City Treasurer and Laura Harris - Board of Education member.

**Public Portion:**

Joe Oraziatti - Athletic Director - DHS/DMS. Mr. Oraziatti wanted to thank the Mayor and all of the other city officials that got behind this project (Lights & Bleachers @ Ryan Field). It's really an important one for the sports program and fans. This year's venue has all of the valley teams coming to Derby (Ansonia, Seymour & Shelton). It's a great way to show off our city and how we get behind our programs. Mr. Oraziatti thanked everyone for all their work and especially Dennis O'Connell who spearheaded the effort .

Dan Waleski - 21 Elm St. Mr. Waleski commented on the DHS, Irving School and Bradley School roof referendum. Why do all three need roof repairs at the same time? It is indicative that some of this should have been brought to the attention of this board sooner. The time to do it is when it is needed. It seems they waited until it became somewhat of a crisis. The Board of Education should be more on top of this. From a citizens point of view, he is quite concerned it has come about all at one time.

Public portion closed.

**Acquisition of and Installation of New Lights & Bleachers at Ryan Field**

A couple of years ago Mr. O'Connell started researching lights for the Ryan complex. The current system is inadequate. The field is dark. The lamps were replaced five years ago and if they were kept, they would have to be replaced again. Every year the illumination dissipates. The poles are not structurally strong, also the footings are compromised as well.

Five years ago the company used was Musco Lighting which is a world renowned company which has done lighting for Yankee Stadium. They replaced the lamps for approximately \$12,000 five years ago.

The Parks & Rec Commission directed Mr. O'Connell to contact Musco Lighting . Mr. Cota and Mr. O'Connell met with a Musco Lighting representative three times. The meetings addressed concerns and provided the specific information and pricing.

The project was \$180,000 to \$200,000 fourteen months ago. The project is now at \$200,000.

The time frame for the project is two months. If the City would appropriate the money, the lights would be ready for the first game. There could still be activity at the field except for when they bring in the cranes. The City would have to decide what activity would be appropriate.

There is a twenty five year warranty with zero maintenance costs. There would be four poles instead of eight. There will be significant electric savings as well.

Mr. McLiverty stated it was originally put in the capital plan for \$260,000 for the Ryan lights and visitors bleachers. It was realized that it would require \$280,000. Everyone agreed it needed to be done. The intent was to use the revenue from the sale of the water works company for the lights. It is a capital improvement, so it is a sound use of money for capital improvements from the fund balance.

The City has a letter from the water works company, but not the cash, so it's a receivable on the books for June 30th.

The Capital Planning Commission's thinking was rather than doing a municipal lease, the proposal accepted by the tax board as recommended by the capital planning and now before the board of aldermen is to forward money from the fund balance to authorize Parks & Recreation to order this (bleachers and lights) and when the cash from the water works sale is received it will backfill the \$280,000.

One of the rating agency's indicators of success is; do you have capital to pay as you go, this falls in line with that, do you fund capital on a regular basis, this falls in line with that, and it's an appropriate use of fund balance for infrastructure improvement.

The cost of the bleachers are \$48,000 with freight of \$6,000. The installation is \$25,000 for a total cost of \$79,000.

**A MOTION** by Mr. Sill to authorize the use of fund balance in the amount of \$280,000 for the capital investment for new lights and visitor's bleachers to be replenished upon receipt from the funds from the sale in the amount of \$1.6M from the water works sale, seconded by Mr. DiCenso, all in favor, **motion passes.**

#### **Derby High School, Irving School and Bradley School Roofs Referendum**

*Consideration and action on resolutions approving an appropriation and borrowing authorization for various school roof replacements, establishing the particulars of a referendum vote on such appropriation and borrowing authorization resolution, and authorizing the preparation and distribution of explanatory texts in connection with such referendum vote including a Resolution Appropriating \$5,806,000 For Replacement of All or Portions of the Derby High School, Irving School and Bradley School Roofs, and Related Work and Improvements; Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds and Notes to Defray the Portion of the Appropriation Not Defrayed from Grants: discussion and action.*

Mr. McLiverty stated in accordance with General Statutes it needs to go to referendum to borrow money, the Board of Aldermen and Tax Board need to pass a resolution to be read into the record. The law requires if it is a sewer project, that it requires a public hearing. There is no public hearing required for the purposes of school improvements.

We have always had a public hearing for schools, because it is an opportunity to present the facts, specs, scope of work, time frame, etc. so the voters have a better understanding of what we're doing versus hearing about what we are doing on the street or picking up an explanatory text from the town clerk.

With interest rates rising, the ten year treasury is at 2.8% (we're up 50% from where we started this discussion seven months ago), we believe the time to strike is now to secure the monies at a low interest rate but also because school is done. We have engineer drawings, engineer specifications, and able to go out to bid.

The WPCA is not quite there yet. The decision tonight is to set a date for the referendum and move forward. The consideration tonight is to have a public hearing for the purposes of transparency for the voters. It is not required by law, but a good thing to consider having within the next twelve to sixteen days. We have the engineer for the design specs, and explain the financing, because Derby is only obligated for thirty percent of the cost, the law actually requires you seek approval for the full scope, so we have to go for the 5.2M, but we're only going to have to pay thirty percent of that.

Several roofs have exceeded thirty years. The Board of Education could have done them sooner once the warranty was up, but they were still holding. Two of them have exceeded their life expectancy and one of them just got to the thirty year mark and is leaking. Mr. McLiverty respectfully disagrees the Board of Ed wasn't on top of this, rather they held off to get as much life out of these things as they could.

The steps would be to set a public hearing, have the aldermen adopt a resolution, mayor's approval to accept, tax board approval for the debt and P&Z for adoption.

Mayor Staffieri agrees with the public hearing for transparency.

Ms. DeGennaro wants people to be informed as to the scope of the project and what the financial is, and feels a date should be set.

Mr. DiCenso asked if it's been held up for three or four months now because of waiting for the WPCA.

Mr. McLiverty stated we were trying them to get together to ... there's issuance costs, there's costs to doing the referendum, so we were trying to do them together....

Mr. DiCenso: what I'm trying to say is; are we going forward with just this only on the bonding...

Mr. McLiverty: yeah, right now we are...

Mr. DiCenso: so WPCA is off the table right now

Ms. DeGennaro: it's not off the table

Mr. McLiverty: they still have some time to try and catch up, they're not ready and the concern is...we're losing...we're incurring costs now by waiting on the school side...

Mr. DiCenso: correct

Mayor: So let's get that one done....

Mr. DiCenso: just saying, now the WPCA gets done, do we have to wait another ten days?

Mr. Sill: not for this.

Mr. McLiverty: not for this, this will just go.

Ms. DeGennaro: they had their public hearing. If their date ends up being around the same, if they can catch up...I don't know why....

Mr. Sill: maybe they will have to have it with the general election then...

Mr. McLiverty: here's the thing Carmen.. if you set a date there can be no advocacy for the project. So that's why you always have the public hearing before you set the date so that we as a municipality can advocate for the project. Right now we don't know what to advocate for the WPCA, but we know what this is, so that's why we're saying we can't wait any more. We're going to go through the process which is a ten day for the public hearing, a five day for the Mayor to approve, the tax board to act and forty five days from when you set the date, if WPCA catches up great....but I don't want to miss this opportunity

Ms. DeGennaro: after the public hearing...we have to set the date and the resolution and then it goes to the Mayor and then the Tax Board....

Mr. McLiverty: and then P&Z, yes

Mr. Sill: could it be done the same night the Board of Aldermen right after the public hearing?

Mr. McLiverty: you could. It tends to be usually...there's one or two questions that you have to get a response from if you don't have any of those you could...if there's something you need another response from you could cancel the meeting....

**A MOTION** by Ms. DeGennaro with a second by Mr. DiMartino that the Board of Aldermen set a public hearing date of Wednesday July 31st 2013 to discuss the DHS, Irving School and Bradley School Roof projects as they relate to the referendum at 7:00 p.m. all in favor, **motion passes.**

**Adjournment**

**A MOTION** by Mr. Sill with a second by Mr. DiMartino o adjourn at 8:04 p.m., all in favor, **motion carries.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Denise Cesaroni

*Recording Secretary*

**\*\*\*These minutes are subject to the approval by the Board of Alderman at their next regular meeting.**