

2022 Jan 19 6:30pm – Special DPW Committee Meeting

Kelly Decker:

All right. Start recording.

Automated Voice:

This meeting is being recorded.

Kelly Decker:

It is Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 6:30 PM. This is the DPW meeting. It's a special meeting for the Department of Public Works. I have to do roll call first. Kelly Decker, Mayor of the City of Port Jervis present. Stanley?

Stanley Siegel:

Siegel, Councilman-At-Large

Kelly Decker:

Stanley [crosstalk 00:00:30]. I'm sorry. Stanley, do it again because you were muted.

Stanley Siegel:

I'm having trouble with my sound. Hang on a minute. Can you hear me?

Kelly Decker:

Yes.

Stanley Siegel:

Stan Siegel, Councilman-At-Large.

Kelly Decker:

Thank you. Regis?

Regis Foster:

Regis Foster, First Ward Councilman present.

Kelly Decker:

Thank you. Liz?

Elizabeth Miller:

Liz Miller, First Ward Council present.

Kelly Decker:

Thank you. Misty?

Misty Fuller:

Misty Fuller, Second Ward Council present.

Kelly Decker:

Thank you. Maria?

Maria Mann:

Maria Mann, Second Ward Council present.

Kelly Decker:

Thank you. Dennis?

Denis Livingston:

Denis Livingston, Third Ward Council present.

Kelly Decker:

Thank you. Mike?

Mike Decker:

Mike Decker, Third Ward Council present.

Kelly Decker:

Thank you. Tim?

Tim Simmons:

Tim Simmons, Fourth Ward Council present.

Kelly Decker:

Thank you, and Melissa?

Melissa Newhauser:

Melissa Newhauser, Fourth Ward Councilperson present.

Kelly Decker:

Thank you. I'll just remind you all, unless you're going to speak to mute your mic so that one is not talking over another. I'm going to ask you all the rise for the pledge. I do have my flag behind me.

Multiple:

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Kelly Decker:

[crosstalk 00:01:53] Okay, thank you. I will turn the meeting over to Denis.

Denis Livingston:

Good evening. I'd first like to make a motion that we go into executive session for the purpose of personnel on the DPW.

Regis Foster:

I'll move.

Kelly Decker:

There's a motion ... Well, Denis will make the motion. Regis, do you want to second it?

Regis Foster:

Yeah.

Kelly Decker:

I have a motion by Mr. Livingston, seconded by Mr. Foster to go into executive session of discussion. All in favor?

Multiple:

Aye.

Kelly Decker:

Opposed? So carried. Just give me one second and I'll stop recording.

Denis Livingston:

Okay, what do we do after this-

Automated Voice:

This meeting is being recorded.

Kelly Decker:

Okay. Go ahead and make a motion.

Denis Livingston:

I make a ... Okay, I make a motion we come out of executive session.

Kelly Decker:

[crosstalk 00:02:39] We have a motion by Denis, we have a second. Seconded by [crosstalk 00:02:41] discussion. All in favor?

Multiple:

Aye.

Kelly Decker:

Opposed? So carried. In regular business, we had a couple things that happened. One was that house on Brooklyn Street. The DPW did not work on it, so they asked [Ty Kreck 00:03:01] to take a look at it, who's done some of our workforce outside when we can't do it internally. The second floor has collapsed into the first floor, and in that situation is this ... We don't own the building. The building was bought at tax sales. The guy paid the \$10,000 like we discussed at the council meeting, and then walked away from it. So even the title isn't in his name, it's in our name. The purchase is by him, but he hasn't paid his taxes so it goes up for tax sale on March 22.

Kelly Decker:

My guess would be 99.9% that we are going to end up with building. That being said, we still can't do anything. The building does not become ours for two full years. So our only options are, Ty gave them a cost to do a partial rehab to the building to secure the floors for about \$40,000, and Jim [Farr 00:04:06] just gave us a price of \$100,000 to tear it down. I gave another option to Denis, and I don't know if we can even do this, but it might be worth mentioning ... Is just to close the whole access of the structure off on the outside, put fencing around the property, and if it collapses in on itself it collapses in on itself.

Stanley Siegel:

We'd better talk to an insurance agent first.

Maria Mann:

With a price of \$40,000 to repair it, doesn't it have to go out when it reaches a certain amount ...

Kelly Decker:

Over \$30,000 it has to go out, so we would have to bid it out for that price. But he says that the second floor has collapsed into the first floor.

Maria Mann:

Ah, it can't be [crosstalk 00:04:54]-

Kelly Decker:

I just want you to know that we're going to work on options. I don't know if we can remove the second floor, and again, obviously we're going to have to contact the insurance company, too. But it's not an easy fix.

Child:

[inaudible 00:05:14]?

Mike Decker:

Because I can't.

Kelly Decker:

... and we're just going to try to figure out the cheapest way to do it. But sorry for the bad news there.

Regis Foster:

The hits keep coming in.

Kelly Decker:

It just keeps coming.

Denis Livingston:

Sorry guys. I'm the one that noticed that property about two months ago.

Kelly Decker:

And it's not the only one. I'm sure in the next two years we'll run into some other properties. The other thing I just want to bring to your attention that kind of angered me today was the Farnum House. The Farnum House is a building that was deeded to the city. We cannot sell it, we cannot remove the property, we don't have money. And this is what I told the last council, is at the next bond is when they need to really focus and say, "Hey, we've got to put \$100,000 or \$200,000 into this building.

Kelly Decker:

Unless for some miraculous reason we get extra money in sales tax revenue or something like that ... The building is in really rough shape. One of the deals was, was that we could get a new furnace with the Siemens plan. So we were going with that. All right, we'll have a new furnace in there, at least we can and keep the heat on. Today they informed us that the system is so bad ... This just blows my mind. The system is so bad that Siemens will do it, and they'll convert it over from a steam system to a regular heating system, except it'll cost us an additional \$14,000 a year for the next 20 years. I'm like, "What heating system could possibly cost that much money?"

Regis Foster:

\$14,000 a year for ...

Kelly Decker:

\$14,000 a year for 20 years.

Maria Mann:

I could just call a private plumber.

Kelly Decker:

Yeah, exactly. I'd rather go out to bid. We could probably do it for a fraction of that price.

Maria Mann:

For 20 years? They're talking about \$280,000.

Kelly Decker:

Exactly, exactly.

Maria Mann:

[crosstalk 00:07:23] That doesn't make any sense.

Kelly Decker:

Denis is on that email ... Stanley, are you on that email, too?

Stanley Siegel:

Yes, and you're absolutely right. \$280,000 is a totally insane price.

Kelly Decker:

I think we could do the whole building over for \$280,000.

Maria Mann:

You're not kidding.

Stanley Siegel:

I'll tell you what, I'll do it for \$100,000.

Kelly Decker:

Well, I don't know if we want you to do it. But the fact of the matter is is that we really need to ... I just want you to be aware of it, so we're going to have to look into it. Because that just came about today and that's just absolutely absurd. So that'll come back up in February's DPW meeting and we should have more for you on that. So those are the [crosstalk 00:08:06] I had.

Tim Simmons:

Mayor?

Kelly Decker:

Yes sir?

Tim Simmons:

The Farnum building, is that in any way ... Can that fall under historic building ...

Kelly Decker:

We tried that, I looked to it. Here's the problem ... Back in the 1980s when they remodeled it, we could get away with if they just put siding on it and stuff like that. But when they threw the tower on on the right-hand side that you go upstairs, and they got rid of the grand staircase, that took away that historical value. If we wanted to go back to historical ... We can get it to go back to historical value, but we'd have to take that addition down and we'd have to put the staircase back up. [crosstalk 00:08:47] What's that?

Stanley Siegel:

Putting the staircase back up would hinder the opportunity for a public building. That's what we had with Church Street School. The reason that could not become a recreation center is because the government and the insurance company would not allow that [crosstalk 00:09:09] the stairway in the middle.

Kelly Decker:

So I will tell you this, what we do have is with those drawings that we have for the recreation center ... Just forget the recreation center, but they did a whole 3-D model, walls, interior walls and everything of the Farnum House. We have that, we own that. So we can base some of our design and look at maybe hiring a contractor or even getting DPW down the road to do it, if we find some money to be able to do these items. I think that that's probably the direction that we should head, because we'll know exactly what to put in.

Kelly Decker:

You can make that house handicap-accessible. The elevator was designed to be in that tower and make it handicap ... But again, it won't be historically accurate, but it would make it handicap-accessible. Whether you use it for senior housing, you use it for city offices, whatever you do, whatever you decide that you want to do with it. The only thing is we can't get rid of it. It's deeded to the city. It's a permanent deed.

Tim Simmons:

Have we reached out to Mike Martucci or Carl on any of this for funding of any kind?

Kelly Decker:

Well, here's the problem. Carl is a Republican at a Democratic assembly, so you're lucky you see \$5,000 a year from him. With that, most of the time we make sure that they give it to the little league and stuff like that, \$5,000.

Tim Simmons:

Right, I get it.

Kelly Decker:

What I've done with Mike Martucci already is for this year I've already asked him for over \$400,000 to do West End Beach, the sidewalk up West End Beach, Orange Square Park, and the Tri-State Rock to make that handicap accessible. But the following year for next year, that could be part of the project. We would have the drawings already and we could go forward and say, "Hey listen, we need \$250 grand to do the Farnum House." So that's a possibility.

Stanley Siegel:

We could go piecemeal. It doesn't have to be one big project.

Kelly Decker:

Right, it doesn't. But you know what, if you're going to put money into it you might as well at least make it usable. And I know Tom [Vick 00:11:28] doesn't want to leave there, but temporarily he might have to. All right, that's where we're at. Denis, did you have anything more?

Denis Livingston:

No, we're going to have a busy February 7 meeting. I can see that's going to happen. So if you all want to come to that meeting, please join in because it's going to be a long meeting. The mayor and I have a lot of other things we have to throw act to.

Stanley Siegel:

I have one thing. It has nothing to do with DPW, but the government's free COVID in-home tests are supposed to be available tomorrow. You can log on today at covidtests.gov and you can get four.

Kelly Decker:

I posted it on the mayor's page.

Stanley Siegel:

Huh?

Kelly Decker:

I posted it on the mayor's page. It's posted there if you'd like to share.

Denis Livingston:

Yeah, and there's going to be booster shots given tomorrow at the high school.

Kelly Decker:

Also, Senator Martucci is working with Cornerstone and they're going to have another test handout sometime ... It was supposed to be today, but they weren't organized with it. That's why we didn't get those tests like we had said, we were going to go Saturday after the polar plunge. They're going to hand them out. So as soon as I get the information, I'll forward it on to you. I talked to Camille and she said sometime this week. So as soon as I find out, I'll let you know.

Tim Simmons:

Will we use the high school again like we did?

Kelly Decker:

No, they want to do it right downtown. Because it's only a couple hundred that they have, and one of the things they said we need to focus on are walkers, especially from the Fourth Ward that don't have cars to get there. I had made the suggestion to Cornerstone and I said, "Listen, you're building a new place, premier it and have it there." They originally said yes, but then they stepped back. So they might be having it down by the Promenade. I think that's what they're looking at, somewhere down there.

Melissa Newhauser:

What happens to the house with the frozen pipes? [crosstalk 00:13:34]-

Kelly Decker:

Our guys fixed that in-house, so it was minimal cost. Although Tim went by yesterday as he was cleaning out fire hydrants and the front door where the pipe broke is wide open. I won't get into details because we're being recorded here, but it's not a great place. I got a hold of Will, Will is starting the process of

eviction, and hopefully an emergency meeting in front of the judge this week. He's supposed to let me know in order to start the eviction process. But also we're in the middle of a closing process.

Kelly Decker:

I asked DPW today and they put an automatic closure on the door. So the door is closing automatically now. Unless they prop it open, obviously. If they prop it open and you see it, run out ... I will. I'll run in there and just kick the prop out. We own the house, we own the house.

Tim Simmons:

Right. I was more than just a little bit annoyed when I saw that. I just couldn't believe it.

Kelly Decker:

Yeah. Just as long as you don't go in the living area, you can go into a common area and [inaudible 00:14:42]. All right.

Stanley Siegel:

All right. Thanks everybody.

Kelly Decker:

Entertain a motion to adjourn?

Stanley Siegel:

So moved.

Denis Livingston:

Motion.

Kelly Decker:

I have a motion by Denis, a second by Stanley. It is January 18, 2022, 7:20 PM. Discussion? All in favor?

Multiple:

Aye.

Kelly Decker:

Closed, so carried. Thank you everyone. [crosstalk 00:15:05].