

Meeting Notes Jan. 16, 2024

Phil called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

The Committee unanimously approved the secretary's minutes from Dec 4, 2023 written by Phil C. Chairman.

In attendance – Phil Cieply, Mike Goddard, Alejna Brugos, Mark Bucchino, Amy Wilson-Kent, Lawney Tinio, Dave Kurczy, and Peg Nogueira

Guest- Jody Kurczy, Town Treasurer.

Jody gave a great presentation explaining Debt Obligation and Borrowing. She presented 3 different cost estimates which reflected building cost for a 6, 8 and 10 million dollar building. She also included a projected cost to the taxpayer.

Debt exclusion needs to be voted on year after year because the tax factor changes. Therefore the numbers she presented are accurate in this year but can change over the life of the loan.

Jody will provide Phil with copies of these charts (on Sharepoint) so that he can distribute them to the committee.

Thanks Jody and Mike Goddard for completing this task!!

Phil informed the committee that Mike Petrovick, the architect, will have the cost estimates available next week.

A discussion was held concerning the breakdown of the costs. We need to see what each cost is and try to “whittle down” the numbers using grants and possible monies available. The group

agreed that the question we need to answer is: “What should the target number be?”

Phil made an observation that the Upton Community center came in at about 12.8 million. That included a library component as well. Some of the group expressed interest in seeing the building and finding out if that committee had any suggestions for us. We may also visit the Bellingham Senior Center again.

A discussion as to the possibility of just completing the infrastructure of the garage, but not finishing it right now was held but Chief Kurczy, who served on his building committee, reminded us that the costs will only increase.

The committee will ask the Selectboard “what do we have for stabilization funds that can be used?”

Mike G brought up some options we need to keep in mind:

- a. This is the actual cost for the building.
- b. This is the net amount that the committee feels is needed.
- c. We need to develop a convincing explanation to the townspeople justifying the needed amount.

There are also other considerations that could impact funding for this project. The schools will be coming to the town for money, possibly looking at a 5 year plan to fund building expansions. In capital planning, the highway dept. needs funds.

Jody was asked if there is any debt “falling off” in 2025. “Yes there is some slow ‘mopping off’, if we take on no new debt.”

Dave K – would like to get the message out to people that the taxes would be level, if we get the approval for the funds right when the debt drops off.

Mike G felt it was more mitigating the tax impact but probably not leveling.

Lawney T- build the center and not put anything off as it will only get more expensive, Dave K agreed as his building increased in cost as it was being renovated.

Phil, as chairman, and Dave as Vice Chairman will come up with a singular option by May to bring to the committee. The Senior Center expansion is the most important building right now. It has to remain a top priority. (Mike G)

With regard to site work, the Committee already had a proposal from Guerriere and Halnon (via Jim Sullivan) but the committee felt that it needed 2 more estimates to show “due diligence” in getting competitive prices.

Lawney T contacted D&L Design and 2 others, which chose not to submit bids. D&L design was \$2300 less than Guerriere and Halnon. Phil wanted a vote taken to make that decision.

Peg N was concerned because she felt that Mike Amendolia’s opinion was needed as he is in the construction business. At Mike G’s suggestion, Peg was able to make a motion to accept

the D&L's bid pending approval by Mike A. Alejna seconded it. Because we were not physically present, the vote was made by roll call and recorded by the acting Secretary. Those "voting eligible" members approving were Dave K, Phil C, Alejna B, Peg N and Mike Bucchino.

Lawney T- abstained Vote passed.

Next topic was the Communication Committee update. Peg informed the committee that although a planned meeting had been scheduled today, it had to be postponed due to the center being closed and the inclement weather. She did inform the committee that a lively discussion had been held with Center Director Amy Wilson-Kent, Tom Fichtner, Friends President Carolyn Wass, Vice President Sue Edmondson and the Council on Aging at their January meeting. Most favored that the name "Senior" was to be in the title. We know that we have a lot of work ahead of us in getting the committee's recommendations out. We will begin with the groups who currently use the center regularly for their meetings, activities, etc.

With no more business to discuss, a motion was made (Peg) and seconded (Alejna) to adjourn at 7:36 p.m. Due to the importance of seeing the final estimates from Mike P, it was decided to hold another Committee meeting next Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024 at 6:30 at the police station.

Peg Nogueira, Acting Secretary