

Received: December 22, 2008
Office of the Town Clerk

Building Committee

June 17, 2008

Members present: Bill Currin, Betsy Gara, Gary Sawicki
Also present: Rob Francis, Ron Melnik, Ted Lombardo

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm.

As there was not a quorum present at the meeting an informal discussion was held.

The Building Committee and the Board of Education need to make decisions on how to proceed if no legislative action is taken to validate the referendum.

Betsy said that the special legislative session on June 11th was very partisan and there was pressure to keep to the call of the agenda which was related only to the real estate conveyance tax and the gas tax. There is one additional session planned to focus on the vetoes, which is scheduled for June 23rd. It is possible that the validation act could get discussed then. There is also a slim possibility that a special session could be called to vote on this issue. The Governor would have to call the session.

If none of this happens then the Committee and the Board of Education need to decide whether to start the process over again or wait until the next legislative session, beginning next January. Betsy said the earliest that the act would pass would be late February or March and a hearing would have to be held.

Members were concerned about beginning the process over again and going out to vote a second time. No one thought that a summer referendum was appropriate and if the process doesn't start until the fall the vote would not end up being held until late October or November. If it is that late and the fall season has been lost before beginning work on the project, the Committee felt it was safer to wait until the next legislative session to get the referendum validated. It is the hope of the Committee that some preliminary work can be accomplished on the project even without the validating act in place.

Bill shared that in a phone call to Sue Gaudreau, John Biddiscombe expressed his opinion that he thinks we should start over and hold a new referendum. He does not want to wait until the next legislative session.

The members of the Committee present were in agreement to wait for the next legislative session for the validating act to receive approval. Bill Currin said that the Board of Education would be the ones to make the final decision and he will ask that it be on the agenda for their next meeting on July 2nd.

Ron would like to be able to go before the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Inland Wetland Commission in Durham again, even if we do not have final plans ready. It will still be an informal meeting at this point. We can't be on their formal agenda until we have final drawings. It was decided that Ron and Bill will attend the Durham meeting of the Inland Wetland Commission on July 14th.

The Committee needs to decide how we are going to move forward with selecting a design team. Rob feels that it is important that someone is hired that is very familiar with State regulations and the State reimbursement process. We need someone who will be able to coordinate the projects.

Ron needs to find out if a design team can be hired before the validating act is approved. He said that any money that is spent on planning for the wells or roofs prior to the legislative approval will not be eligible for state reimbursement.

Ron is going to check into whether we have to advertise for a design team or if invitations to participate in the RFQ or RFP can be sent out. He believes we need to get at least four bids.

Rob asked if any of the money that has been budgeted for the projects for the 2008-09 school year can be used to pay for some of the start-up expenses or if any of the money that has been allocated for the Capital Fund can be used for this purpose. He would really like to hire a hydrologist to help locate the wells. He would also like to get some of the soil test borings completed on the track area.

Ron said he is not sure about using the money from the budget or from the capital fund. He will check into it. He said that using money from either of these areas will require BOE approval.

Betsy will talk to some of her connections through the state to see if there are well firms that have experience at the State level regarding the process with the Department of Public Health.

Ted Lombardo said that he has been told that for the next two years the football program will continue to be a part of the co-op program. Beginning in 2010 Coginchaug football will be on their own. He said we will need to have the field and field house ready by that time.

Ron, Bill and Betsy will meet next week on Wednesday to develop a RFQ or RFP for design services.

A next meeting date for the Building Committee was not scheduled. Communication will be done through email when the final decision from the legislature is known.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Gaudreau

