

PHS Facilities Committee Meeting of 3-9-09

Attendees: Sean Minuti, Daryle Hillsgrove, Rob Hardy, Dr. Mohr, Brian Cartin, Brenda Hobbs, Brian Mahoney, Kevin Steele, Bob Sherman arrived late.

Absent: Dr. Bass, Hal Lynde, Dr. Bass, and Kathleen Sergeant

- 1) Sean Minuti opened the meeting.
- 2) Minutes
 - a) 1/19 approved with minor edits
 - b) 2/9 approved
- 3) Brenda Hobbs provided a list of historical warrant articles with capital reserves.
- 4) Discussion on the recent Tyngsboro letter to the school board.
 - a) Brian Mahoney had a copy of the letter and read it to the group.
 - b) Kevin Steele stated he had emailed Ed Murdough of the Department of Education. He verbally reviewed the responses to his questions regarding building aid for a school shared with a Massachusetts town.
 - c) Dr. Mohr stated one possibility of a joint relationship might be to offer classes not currently available to PHS students.
 - d) Kevin stated there might be some opportunities for short-term curriculum sharing and asked about possibility of kindergarten.
 - e) Daryle stated people have expressed interest in pursuing it to see if there is a benefit to the town.
 - f) Brian C expressed concern that the Tyngsboro issue may direct the group away from the path of the committee is on at this time and wasn't sure if there would be a benefit to Pelham. Tyngsboro has similar issues at High School and middle school and he wasn't sure what they were bringing to the table.
- 5) Brenda Hobbs asked if there was any additional information on Camp Runnels.
- 6) Discussion on items for school district submitted for stimulus money allocated to NH.
 - a) Dr. Mohr stated HVAC on stimulus. Pelham submitted mostly maintenance issues.
 - b) Brian M stated NH received about 58 million for NH for schools from stimulus package.
- 7) Discussed the 2/16 minutes to with general discussion of items from Marinace meeting
 - a) Brenda stated she thought Marinace did a good job presenting information.
 - b) Discussion on mitigation
 - i) Brian C stated that Marinace was using old data from the 1980's and that \$7500 would determine the level of mitigation.
 - ii) Brian C stated the \$7500 survey would give some information.
 - iii) The committee discussed approaching the SAU to get the survey completed.
 - iv) Sean is going to discuss with Dr. Bass.
 - v) Rob Hardy stated the question is if the fields can be put on that section of land.
 - c) Brian M stated costs for High school addition were based on 178 thousand foot addition and we did not size addition for 900

- students. He felt the school board would build an elementary school not a junior high for a fourth school. He felt the committee needed more information.
- d) Rob Hardy stated that Marinace had made it clear that trying to build on the current site with students was much more expensive.
 - e) Kevin Steele stated if you reviewed the information only on building to address the high school costs it would be cheaper to build the renovation/addition.
 - f) Brian Mahoney stated anyway you go there will be a deficiency somewhere.
 - g) Sean stated regardless of anything that may result with Tyngsboro, our middle school would still need renovations.
 - h) Kevin stated it may make sense to convert current high school for kindergarten, pre-k, first and second grade and build a new high school somewhere else.
 - i) Brian Mahoney stated the most feasible option is the one that can get approved by voters.
 - j) Kevin stated the town leaderships strategy is "only what's best versus what's achievable"
- 8) Discussion on what is best to put forward as an option.
- a) Brian C asked if the proposals were equal in academic standards.
 - b) Dr. Mohr stated you could get equal standards with an addition but it may not be equal with respect to elements of the learning environment.
 - c) Dr. Mohr stated plans were not drawn out for internal plans for the current high school to determine if it could be equal.
 - d) Brian M stated he believed the board at the time had directed Marinace to pursue a new on new high school so no further work had been done on a renovation/addition.
 - e) Brian C stated a few items
 - i) Renovation was not drawn out
 - ii) He does not feel the fields built on the back of the property are a good idea for health issues with insects and for safety reasons. There are insecticide restrictions. He feels ball fields in the wetland areas are a major obstacle.
 - f) Kevin stated he was concerned that people aren't in agreement if the new and renovation option are equal.
 - g) Brian C stated one draw back to a new on new high school is there is no specific land.
 - h) Rob Hardy said he went to the planning department and identified some parcels of land that are big enough.
 - i) He spoke with Jeff McGowan who knew that Gendron was selling some land.
 - ii) Planning department wasn't aware of anything with Camp Runnels.
 - i) Brenda stated that there is a large tract on Spaulding Hill.
 - j) Brian C stated we need information on if land is can be permitted and if there is an alternate site for the fields.
 - k) Brian Mahoney stated the area off Willow Street looked at for kindergarten previously wouldn't fit a building even for kindergarten.
 - l) Brian C stated:
 - i) We should get clarification from Marinace on renovation plan.
 - ii) More detail is needed for academic equivalents

- m) Kevin stated Marinace didn't have that information.
 - n) Brian C suggested getting a quote to have that done for a renovation/addition.
 - o) The renovation options ranged from 28 to 38 million. Discussion on differences between the two prices.
 - p) Daryle felt the cost was based on generalities and not on any real plans.
 - q) Bob S stated we needed to complete a matrix for the community to identify how the committee got to its decision.
 - r) Brian Mahoney stated the committee may need to be re-charted by the new board and he felt the board may want to change the direction of the committee.
 - s) Brian C stated the voters put the committee in place through a vote and it should finish what it started.
 - t) Bob S briefly updated the committee on discussion at the Chamber of Commerce in Nashua about a casino project for Hudson. The proposal is that money would go to adjacent communities including Pelham.
 - u) The committee felt the possibility was far down the road if it happened and would not impact the current situation.
- 9) Meeting adjourned, 9:10. Next meeting Monday 3/6.