

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE 6:00 PM MAY 12, 2022

Present: Dave Hurton - Chairman - *Voting Member*
Ted Avlas – *Vice Chairman Member - Voting Member*
Al Young - *Voting Member*
Tony Paranto - *Voting Member (6:05)*
Gina Nieves - *Voting Member*
Ruthann Goguen - Superintendent
Monique Pierangeli – Asst Superintendent for Business & Finance
Tim Bell - Town Accountant
Lisa Kontoes - *Voting Member (6:15)*
Richard LaFond - *Town Administrator*
Ted Tetreault - Building Inspector

Absent: Fran Thomas - Principal
Sheila Blythe – *School Committee Voting Member*

Attendees: Ken Guyette - Colliers - *Phone*
John Bates - Colliers - *Phone*
Kent Kovacs - Flansburgh
Chief Brian Hickey (Left at 6:28)
Joe McKenna - State Representative
Earl Gabor - Board of Selectmen

I. Call to order: Mr. Hurton called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes for May 5, 2022:
Motion – Mr. Young
Second – Ms. Nieves
Vote: Yes – 4; No – 0, Abstain - 0

III. OPM Report

1. Budget & Schedule

OPM John Bates updated the committee on where we stand with contracts and where we are to date. Items are on budget. There is a request for a budget amendment to make changes to the initial estimated budget that was submitted to the MSBA in the very early stages before contracts were signed. The budget amendment aligns the MSBA budget to the contracts. This would be just moving line items to the appropriate amounts.

2. Budget Amendment - Motion to approve the budget amendment as presented

Motion – Mr. Paranto
Second – Mr. Young
Vote: Yes – 6; No – 0, Abstain - 0

IV. Discussion of Town Meeting:

Mr. Hurton welcomed all guests who came out to offer feedback after the recent town meeting. Fire Chief Brian Hickey gave an update on the safety systems in the building and what it would take to bring it up to code. The building is out of compliance with the sprinkler system and once you start to replace those systems it will trigger other items that need to be replaced and brought up to code. Building Inspector Ted Tetreault spoke about the mechanicals and how that would be impacted if the fire systems are updated. The mechanicals in the building are very old. The school department has done a good job at repairing and taking care of systems. The systems are just outdated and in many instances you cannot get parts, so they are being updated with newer equipment and then the Mechanicals don't talk and work to their fullest capacity. The building will need to be brought to code if any project exceeds 30% of the school value. Any of the projects done at this point would trigger code compliance. Mr. Tetreault stated that community members need to understand the future financial implications and that the whole building should be brought up to code. It was asked by Chair Dave Hurton if they would be willing to provide a formal update for the community. Mr. Tetreault stated if the building isn't addressed soon, the building department will not be able to wait and start to enforce the life safety issues and would be willing to write a letter of support.

Mr. Bates outlined his conversation with the MSBA when asked about an extension, stating that the district has to send notification to the MSBA outlining the results of the votes, followed by explaining why they didn't think they passed and how the district believes they can remedy the situation. The MSBA would not confirm that the district would get an extension, only that the letter would be reviewed by Board Members. Representative McKenna offered to write a letter of support to the MSBA if needed. The district has until June 30, 2022 to get the project approved and there is no guarantee that an extension will be granted.

There was a lot of discussion as to what the district could have done differently and how if the committee decides to ask for another opportunity to move forward how they could clarify the message and relay the financial impact if it is not approved at town meeting. It was clear that the focus needs to be on the building condition and what the impact / cost would be if it doesn't get approved. After lengthy discussion, the committee agreed to send a letter to the selectman to request another opportunity to educate the community on the project and to have another town meeting and ballot vote before the deadline of June 30.

Motion to ask the Selectman to authorize a second ballot vote and town meeting.

Motion - Ted Avlas

Second - Lisa Kontoes

Vote - Yes - 6, No - 0 Abstain - 0

V. Approval of Warrant: Motion to approve the warrant totalling \$30,222.50

Motion – Ms. Kontoes

Second – Mr. Paranto

Vote: Yes – 6; No – 0, Abstain - 0

VI. Next Meeting Date: Pass Over

VII. Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn 6:45 pm

Motion: Mr. Paranto

Second: Mr. Young

Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0; Abstain - 0

Respectfully submitted,
Monique Pierangeli