

Greenwich Board of Education Minutes of the GHS Front Entry Committee Meeting

DATE: March 27, 2023

LOCATION: Virtual via Google Meet

TIME: 8:00 am

Committee Members Present:

Stephen Walko - Chairman

Jake Allen- Vice Chairman

Maureen Bonanno-Secretary

Ashley Cole

Stephanie Cowie

Louis Contadino

Christina Downey (BOE)

Megan Galleta

Leslie Moriarty (BET)

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Craig Amundson (RTM)

Tom Bobkowski (BOE - Central Office)

Ralph Mayo (GHS Principal)

Dan Watson (BOE- Central Office)

Lauren Rabin (Board of Selectmen)

Steven Swidler (BOE Staff)

Others Present:

Matt Gallerani (Silver Petrucelli)

David Stein(Silver Petrucelli)

Chris Cykley (CSG)

Not Present:

Dennis Yeskey (P&Z)

Will Schwartz (DPW)

- **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Mr. Walko at 8:00 a.m.
- **Project Update:**
 - Mr. Walko stated today's objective is to get an update on the state meeting.
 - Mr. Cykley stated that the project was approved at \$3MM as a Non-Priority List Project because it is a security project. This classification means you can submit grant applications every month and it does not become part of the June 30 grant submission deadline that a major project would be subject to. However, because this is an addition, it can also be classified as a Priority List project, so it carries both rules according to the state.

- Mr. Cykley continued, for this project, the original grant was \$3.0MM, and the add'l \$500k that was approved for this project by the town has not been approved by the state. Mr. Cykely added, the process to get the approval done would take too long and would delay the start of the project which would result in escalated costs.
- Mr. Cykley noted that the state suggested that we revise the estimate based on the \$3MM application, by pulling out components and designating them as to be paid directly by the town without being subject to reimbursement at this time.
- Mr. Cykley stated that we can then go out to bid and later go back to state with the additional \$500K. The alternative is going to the state with the full amount.
- Mr. Cykely stated that in order to get to the \$3MM, the contingency amount was taken out as well as the two amounts for the Owners Rep.
- Mr. Walko stated that at a 20% reimbursement rate, based on the \$500k, we would then be \$100K at risk for reimbursement.
- Mr. Walko stated that the cost of the project was estimated at \$3.2MM with the \$40K for the estimate for CSG and \$137K for an owner's rep. If you take those soft costs out and reduce contingency to 6%, you can get to \$3MM. Mr. Walko emphasized that this does not change the town funding, but it is all about reimbursement and timing.
- Mr. Walko asked what the process would be if we don't make the amendment, and Mr. Cykely responded that we would need to submit a revised grant application with the revised accounting to be approved by the state.
- Mr. Cykely noted whether the state considers it a Non Priority Project or a Priority Project, the process would take a few months. Mr. Stein added that we would then lose the opportunity to begin work this summer, noting that we probably would not even be able to go to bid until mid July
- Mr. Stein stated that the suggestion was to adjust the accounting and once there are real numbers, the Office for School Grants could better provide a way to adjust the numbers for the process.
- Mr. Allen asked what the exposure is and Mr. Walko responded that it is 20% or \$100k. Mr. Stein added that there are items on the list that are ineligible so the entire project is not 20% eligible.
- Mr. Stein stated once you have hard numbers, if they come within a 10% window, the Commissioner has the authority to adjust the budget. He added that would bring us to \$3.3M
- Mr. Walko clarified that we never went to state with the \$3.5MM, which was the total amount approved by the town. The total amount was \$3.279MM so the total reimbursement would be \$56K.
- Ms. Downey asked, if we are willing to do the application at \$3MM and roll dice for the reimbursement, how does Ms. Moriarty think the BET would feel about that. Additionally, if we decide to go that route, would the BOE need to revote on the project cost sheet.
- Mr. Cykley clarified that we just don't know what the process would be to get that additional amount approved.

- Mr. Cykley added that the BOE would need to vote on the new project estimate.
- Ms. Moriarty asked how the state would consider the add alternates, assuming there was room in the budget and if we would be able to go back for reimbursement and Mr. Stein responded that the add alternates are not included in the Ed Specs, so they would likely be ineligible items.
- Ms. Moriarty responded that, although she can't speak for the entire BET, she thought that the calculation of the costs in dollar terms and the inconvenience to the high school exceeds the potential reimbursement amount so she doesn't believe it makes sense to delay the project and miss the summer construction season and she would agree to making the changes to the cost sheet that the state suggested.

- **Motions:**

Motion was made by Jake Allen and seconded by Stephanie Cowie to return to state with an updated accounting of \$3.0MM subject to BOE approval. The motion was approved. *The Motion Passed 8-0-0* Ms. Cole was absent for the vote.

Motion was made by Jake Allen and seconded by Christina Downey to submit to the BOE for the approval of the updated accounting, for state purposes only, to show the project at \$3.0MM at this time. The motion was approved. *The Motion Passed 8-0-0* Ms. Cole was absent for the vote.

- **Timing and Next Steps:**

- Ms. Downey stated that to keep this moving quickly, she will recommend a quick Zoom meeting for the BOE approval.
- Ms. Moriarty stated that she submitted a written report to the BET and will add an addendum.
- Mr. Walko stated that the other issue was the ADA Compliance report with the other schools, noting the town needs to assure the state that there is a plan in place for each school to be ADA compliant.
- Mr. Stein stated that he is getting the Building department sign offs on one form.
- Mr. Walko stated that the BET meeting is tonight, the BOE will meet soon so we can go back to the state. Mr. Cykley will schedule a follow up meeting once the BOE meeting is scheduled.

- **Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes:**

Motion was made by Jake Allen and seconded by Leslie Moriarty to approve the March 15th meeting minutes as amended with Mr. Contadino's comment. The motion was approved. *The Motion Passed 9-0-0*

- **Discussion on the Motion to Approve the Minutes:**

- Mr. Contadino noted that the minutes did not include his comment on the details of the corner of the curtain wall in the vestibule. Ms. Bonanno will amend the minutes to include Mr. Contadino's comments.

- **Adjourn:**

- The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Walko at 8:34 am

Submitted by Maureen Bonanno on May 17th, 2023