

**Lamoille North Supervisory Union and  
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District Board  
Minutes of Special Board Meeting  
July 24, 2023**

**Board Members Present:** Cambridge: Mark Stebbins, Susan Prescott, Jan Sander; Denise Webster; Eden: Jeff Hunsberger, David Whitcomb; Hyde Park: Tina Lowe; Johnson: Allen Audette, Katie Orost, Monica Stearns; Waterville: Bart Bezio

**Board Members Absent:** Belvidere: Stephanie Sweet; Cambridge: Christy Liddy; Hyde Park: Patty Hayford, Lisa Barry; Johnson: Angela Lamell, Mark Nielsen, Tommy O'Connor

**Administrators Present:** Catherine Gallagher, Deb Clark, Dylan Laflam, Rene Thibault

**Minute Taker:** Sue Trainor

**Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Public Comment:** Orost, being the Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. There were no changes to the agenda and no public comment

**Cricket Hill Project Timeline:** Gallagher informed the Board that she and Nielsen had talked about the aftermath of the flooding. Realizing just how devastating the flooding was to so many families in the District, they were recommending postponing the bond vote. Their intention was not to cancel the bond vote, but to postpone it. Gallagher said it wouldn't be fair to Johnson or Cambridge to move forward at this time. Those two communities were very concerned about having stable housing and the administration and Board Chair felt that asking people to vote on this issue was not where these families' energy should or would be focused.

However, something still needed to be done about Central Office. The office reeked from moisture. Carpets needed to be replaced, the old heat registers needed to be ripped out or capped and repaired. Adding mini splits to each room would pull moisture out of the building. The IT closet needed to be looked at to make sure it was clean and dry. While the reduced occupancy had reduced the levels of carbon dioxide in the building, there were ongoing moisture issues. There were no mold spores, but the smell was troubling.

Whitcomb made a motion to postpone moving forward with the bond vote, seconded by Stebbins.

Orost asked if there should be a date placed on reviewing and considering the proposal again.

Hunsberger reported that in Lamoille County there was 217 homes that were flooded and about 104 of those were uninhabitable. A large number of houses on Railroad Street, West River, and the trailer park in Johnson were part of that number. Cambridge was not much better off.

Audette asked what could be done in the meantime as far as staging for the bond. Laflam said it would all be in process. A little more time would help the design team in preparing their work.

Clark stated that January would be six months away. She asked if the Board would want to warn the budget and project together.

Bezio agreed with the idea of postponement. He believed it would be tone deaf to move forward with a proposal and potentially compete for the same construction and funding resources that would assist with the recovery effort.

Prescott thought six months might be too soon. Individuals would still be in recovery mode. Gallagher suggested that tonight's meeting could vote on the postponement and August's meeting could vote on the work to be done on Central Office.

The Board then unanimously approved to postpone the bond work for six months.

Orost asked Hunsberger how many families in these flooded communities had children in the schools and if there was anything the District could do. Hunsberger said it was difficult now because FEMA, Red Cross, 211, and Vermont Emergency Management were trying to aggregate numbers based on everyone's reporting. However, it was unclear how many adults and children were affected. Gallagher stated that some parents had reached out and were anxious to have kids back in school and that was what the District wanted as well.

**Adjourn:** Hunsberger made a motion, seconded by Lowe, to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m.