

03/3/21 7:00| Carl Brunetti

Carl Brunetti, BobTurner, Dave Hartley, Mike Babbitt, Mike O'Connell, Rhonda Lacombe, BillDiBiasio, Maryanne Bessette, Donna Sullivan, Mark Enander, Andrew Esposito

Also in attendance:Bob Ericson and Bill McManus

*if marked **red** this denotes absent

Motion to approve the minutes of 2/25/2021 by Bill DiBiasio and second by Donna Sullivan unanimous
Correspondence:

Town Clerk for schedule of meetings

Town Administrator for tour of Town Meeting is a go 3/20

Finance Director sent excel

IT will be getting on it for a lap top replacement

SD answers of Questions from last meeting

Questions from Carl and Donna and on Breakage

Carl attended meeting of School Committee and budget that is approved more to come.

Mike O and Mike B approved the administration building on new constructions

Bob T send proposed letter to TC on behalf of BB with sale of building and proceeds of premiums

Francine Jackson for Conservation Commission

Public Comment: None

Regular Business:

FY 20 Audit: List of Municipal Pensions Try to see if we can shrink all the plans to similar like plans, MERS, Public works and Teachers a lot to research. Would like the equivalent of what we get from the School Department.

FY22 Education Budget: Design of Admin Addition is done plans by RGB are done out to bid and awarded... asked Gary from Collier. Town Council has approved this and its 1.4 million Derek Osterman said that the offices were enormously bigger and they change for appearance so that it would be more acceptable to the constituents. How did this happen adding this to the project we were able to get an additional 5% reimbursement equal to 3 million. What is going on with the field house

Request to RIDE for reimbursement the price is 15 million dollars according to the email that was directed to Mike Babbitt for the field house the design has a large metal building for use of maintenance.

Administration building has 7 rooms that could be used for additional classrooms.

****add from notes

Bob Ericson on the energy analysis track all the school building for energy usage. Matched up with CT data base. Should we go back and do this knowing that we have a good natural experiment 2019 to 2020 and the following year 2020 to 2021 where it was inhabited. Mike asked Bob E. caution you to look at the results and caution the school department was required to increase the fresh air flowing due to COVID. Donna question, when requesting information would it be for 2008 comparison and just do this current past two years. Bob E will get this in writing to Carl for an ask from Superintendent and the School Committee.

Questions to the SD:

Medical claims are predicted to be under for the budget by 158,000. For FY21

We received the information on the retirees for the health and dental coverage

Total COVID expense is 34,500. FY21 expenditures

Tour of schools to be determined at 3/5/2021 meeting

Capital break down of 120K for additional work on the project the Excel spreadsheet is 198,000 needs to be sent with recommendations by the SC.

Renovations-Rebuild of School Administration

During the demolition of the portions of the High School it was recommended not to tear down the "inhabitable" portion of the High school near the gym rather exclude it from the scope of work. This was done for potential buildout of an Administration building

Mike called out to a business partner to ask if there were some plans as we have heard rumors that this was going to be done ASAP. He was told not only were they done but that they have been approved and awarded to the lowest bidder and it was all sanctioned by the Town Council and Town Administrator.

Letter to the Town Council:

When we asked Administrator Almond what is going on he said the building committee (which two of the Budget board members Mike Babbitt and Mike O'Connell is on) would know and have to agree to the entire process before any approval would happen. This was never done we are all under the assumption that it is in the beginning process. In fact, it is in the beginning of the rebuild process and needs to be completed by June 2021 in order to be considered for the extra 5% reimbursement of the RIDE funds.

The funds for the Bond Premium is being used for the High School Field House, the funds being received by RIDE for the reimbursement is being used for the Admin Addition and the funds for the sale of the Fairlawn,

Town Council committed to assign to a School Capital Fund no word on old School Administration building proceeds. Should the Taxpayers have been asked at the recent election and/or the FTM coming in May about the additional spend and disposition of proceeds? Now we are also being told there is an Athletic Complex going in who is doing the approving.

Money needs to be approved by the taxpayers, we cannot have RIDE dictate to us what/how we can use the funds. Oversight should be by the building committee is what is told but how if they don't know of the project. Project will start in less than a month or no funding will be given. This clearly should have been added to the election.

Building committee meets every week and there has been NO discussion 1/25/21 the plans were done and this would have gone through many changes so would have been in the works since November 2020. We currently have 400K left in contingency money to last until June 2021 for the existing HS renovation this will not last. The building committee was completely negated from the process and this is an issue.

Bill McManus was in attendance and he said 15 million was an incorrect figure for the field house (Athletic Complex) he was told it would be 6.7 million. He will look into this further and let us know in addition he was also told that the Building committee was aware of the build out and had approved by them before it was put to the school committee.

Question to the School Department it looks like they will be getting 1.7 million from the State for the Covid Expense?

The Budget board feels as though absent conditions this should be placed in a restricted fund.

Medical Expenses not reviewed yet week of 3/8/2021

Currently only 4 people have put in the notice of retirement, Carl to reach out to see if there are others since the date was 3/1/21 for the deadline to notice.

School Tour according to Superintendent Filippelli is him, McNamee, McKenna and Goho Mike B, Andrew, Carl and Donna to attend.

Central, Northern, Lonsdale and Saylesville want all carpet removed. They don't want the windows to save money in Central.

Bill McManus said that the computer expense is so that the kids can have their own device 1/1 this should be a one-time expense. Mike B asked if they are being sent back to school then the Google class room should suffice. This was a project that Bill McManus worked on also about 10 years ago the update should go to the mainframe and it would update each unit.

There is also computer hardware in the line item and this is for the new computers.

Joe Goho sent Bill a response during the meeting according to Bill McManus, Administration fit out was approved by the School Committee the other night (even though the Building committee new nothing)

Athletic Complex does not include a Facility building for Armand Milazzo.

The School Committee recommends removal of all of the rug floor covering material and replacement with VCT. And they are cautioning us not to do the windows but to replace the rugs. Mike Babbitt told Joe Goho if we do the windows there will be plenty of money to do the carpet with the energy savings. Budget board asked for the full cost of doing the Windows so that we can vet it out ourselves, Carl to ask John McNamee for the quote the School Committee is saying 600K.

Bill McManus came to the meeting to explain the cut he approved for Saylesville on the curb replacement and the pavement replacement. 91K for the paving to do it correct and he is reducing it to 31K for necessities.

The School Department is constantly cutting the maintenance budget and asking more of the town to maintain.

Mike B make a motion to send the letter to the Town Council and second by Bill DiBiasio

Mike B rescinded the motion we need to add to the letter approved next meeting! Unanimous

Public Comment:

Bill McManus The school discussion should include the School Committee and the Budget Board and the School Committee should plan a work session with the Budget Board. Also Bill asked about beautifying the town and Bob Turner reminded him that we set 2K aside never spent two years in a row. He has until June to use the funds or it rolls off and the process will begin again. Bill said he is embarrassed having company go through the ghetto to get to his house we need to get our street cleaned.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn Mike Babbitt and Seconded by Dave Hartley at 9:30 pm

Next Meeting date:

3/4/2021