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MINUTES
OF THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2013
7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL
130 MAIN STREET

Present: Paul Sylvia, Bill Diederling, Linda Bliss, Courtney Bridge, Tom Hickey, Richard Reilly, Mike Dwyer

Absent: Gene Parini and Ellen Yaffe

Also Present: Town Manager George Dunham, Assistant Town Manager Doug Lapp, Town Accountant Doreen Guild, members of the Joint Public Safety Building Committee, Michael McKeon (Kaestle Boos Assoc., Todd Costa, Paul Gately/Broadsider, Mary Stanley/Enterprise and SCT

ITEM #1
CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

ITEM #2
REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of March 19, 2013-

***MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. DIEDERNG TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2013 AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY MR. DWYER. VOTE – UNANIMOUS**

ITEM #3
TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Dunham introduced the members of the Joint Public Safety Building Committee, Michael McKeon from Kaestle Boos Architects and Todd Costa and gave an overview of the history of the project to present.

-A vote by the Board of Selectmen in June 2012 allowed the committee to move forward on this project; Recap of Public Outreach Sessions Conducted; Input Received from the Public; Recap of Problem and Proposed Solution; The Solution-Building Locations; Homeowner Insurance – 5 Mile Criteria Maps; The Cost; Financial Considerations; Estimated New Total Exempt Debt Top Priorities; Bottom Line; Conclusion/Next Steps.

Note was made that ten thousand sq. ft. was cut from the original building plan.

The Board of Selectmen voted 4-1 to present this to the public in May.

Looking for the Finance Committee's support.

Looking into civilian dispatchers although a regional dispatch system is being considered also.

Mr. Dwyer noted that he supports this project as a citizen and a Finance Committee member. Took the tour of the current public safety buildings and was appalled at the conditions of the buildings.

It was noted that a regional solution for dispatching is possibly about three to five years away.

Brief discussion about the work out area in the proposed facility and the cost of maintaining the new facility i.e. gas and electric.

Mr. Diederling noted that the answers to any questions about this project are all in this presentation and suggested that perhaps offering a 'per thousand' dollar of property valuation example and explaining that the highest dollar amount tax payers will pay will be in the beginning and the amount would be going down from there would be another tool so people can really understand.

Mr. Hickey - have we cut all of the fat out, if it was there? Are we spending money on anything we should not be spending money on? Very comfortable that thirty million dollars, although a lot of money, is necessary to build this building.

Brief discussion on the current number of dispatchers needed for the two buildings. It was noted that a regional dispatch system could be a cost savings for us.

Deputy Chief Tom Corriveau offered information about dispatching.

The Sheriff's Dept. is almost at build-out right now. It is not possible to try to connect with them for dispatching.

With the new building there would be one dispatch area for both Police and Fire.

Mr. Diederling – If we do invest in our own dispatching area and then we go to the regional process what happens with that area in the facility and the equipment and what is the time frame for moving in?

Mr. Dunham – if we get the money in May we would not move in for about three years and hopefully then we would have a better idea about regional dispatching by then.

It was noted that the total cost for the current dispatching centers is about \$800,000. If we wanted to go to a regional dispatching service it is much less than that. You would have a dark station...you would lose some of the personal touch.

Mr. Sylvia noted that not everyone is going to benefit from the public safety facility being relocated but is still in favor of the project.

Brief discussion on public safety vehicle response times.

Mr. Dwyer noted that this project is all about credibility. This is a #1 priority for the Board of Selectmen and the Capital Improvement Planning Committee. The Finance Committee will decide if it is a #1 priority.

-Overview of proposed time line to finalize the FY'14 budget and ATM Warrant

Mr. Sylvia noted the Finance Committee can vote this budget and some of the warrant articles either the meeting on the 9th or the 16th.

-Mr. Dunham updated the Projected Revenues and Expenses – FY'14 information noting that the Board of Selectmen voted to take \$500,000 from the Stabilization Fund for the A Wing project at the high school...this does not change the bottom line; increase in New Growth from \$500,000 to \$575,000 due to some changes NSTAR is making.

Mr. Diederling, inquiring about the funds being taken from the Stabilization Fund, asked when the money would be paid back and what is the risk that we are not going to get Mass. School Building Association (MSBA) funding.

Mr. Dunham noted that he doesn't think the town should sign any contract(s) until we know for sure about any money from MSBA.

Mr. Diederling – what about borrowing it from the Stabilization Fund then put it back in from MSBA money?

Mr. Dunham noted that he met recently with school department representatives there won't be any Reserve Fund needs from the schools.

-Capital Budget-

Overview of FY'14 Capital Budget Summary.

Of the original six options presented for the Library HVAC project by McKinnell McKinnell and Taylor, Inc. Options #2, 4 & 5 are no longer being considered. Option #1 is preferable but option #6 is most likely.

It was noted that the Committee has previously discussed the future use of the library. Their long range plan is to stay in the building.

Mr. Hickey asked why we are looking at putting the HVAC system on the library roof.

Mr. Lapp, referencing photos in the meeting packet, that it is not possible to put the system under the stair case because that is the septic system. It is possible to put it in the patio but then there is additional work that needs to be done.

Mr. Hickey feels there are a lot of issues with putting the HVAC system on the roof...it is not necessary and it is not the right place...it is the worst possible place...putting it on the ground is the best place.

Mr. Lapp noted that these options have been discussed.

ITEM #4
COMMITTEE

Sub-Committee Reports-
None

Future Meeting Schedule-
Next meeting Tuesday, April 2, 2013

Other-

Mr. Dwyer suggested that the Committee might consider topics for discussion at future meetings such as capital projects and the process; overtime for public safety...can we look at the overtime that is controllable?

Mr. Dunham noted that on the topic of overtime, both departments track it. We have made a concerted effort to bump both overtime budgets. Thinks it is fair to say that the overtime we have appropriated covers for training etc. it just doesn't cover things we cannot plan for. If we could start a shift with more people initially that would be best.

Mr. Sylvia suggested that perhaps the Police and Fire Chiefs could come in and make a presentation again.

Mr. Dunham noted that as far back as Police Chief Michael Miller, for 10 years, he never had a full staff of 34.

ITEM #5
ADJOURN

8:45 P.M.

***MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY MR. HICKEY. SECONDED BY MS. BRIDGE VOTE – UNANIMOUS.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane M. Hanelt, Secretary

Approved: 

Supporting Documents:

- Summary Presentation on the proposed Joint Public Safety Building
- Proposed Time Line to Finalize FY'14 Budget & ATM Warrant (GHD Draft – 3/25/2013)
- Projected Revenues and Expenses – FY'14 – Increased Ch.70 Aid (Selectmen Recommendation 2/28/13)
- Projected Revenues and Expenses - FY'14 – Increased Ch. 70 Aid (GHD – Option #13/22/2013)
- FY'14 Capital Budget Summary) Draft – 3/22/2013
- Library HVAC Project – March 21, 2013 (Board of Selectmen)
- Sandwich High School Window Sill Project
- Index of Warrant Articles (GHD Draft 3/25/2013)