

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Thursday, May 23, 2019

7:00 p.m.

SAU #1

Agenda

- 1. Accept Minutes of April 25, 2019**
- 2. Town to Town Cooperation**
- 3. ConVal Broadband Committee**
- 4. Schedule of Payments**
- 5. Consolidation Impact Analysis**
- 6. Elementary School Costs**
- 7. Other**

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Minutes

Present: John Jordan (Hancock), John Robertson (Antrim), Karen Hatcher (Peterborough), Bob Marshall (Greenfield), Henry Kunhardt (Francestown), George Willard (Temple), Dr. Ann Forrest, Myron Steere, Tim Theberge, Kevin Pobst

John Jordan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Accept Minutes of March 28, 2019

John Robertson moved to accept the minutes of March 28, 2019. Karen Hatcher second. Bob Marshall and George Willard abstained. All others in favor. Motion carried.

Everyone present introduced themselves.

2. Town to Town Cooperation and Mutual Aid Opportunities

John Jordan said that the small towns cannot maintain police coverage.

Karen Hatcher said that she asked for the opportunity for each of the town select board reps to update each other on what is going on in their towns so that opportunities for collaboration might take place.

John Jordan said that Hancock does not have anything major going on since the recent road work emergencies. They are buying a fire truck.

George Willard reported not much going on in Temple.

Bob Marshall reported that Greenfield is in the process of a meeting house restoration. In addition, mud season has done a number on the roads.

John Robertson reported that discussion is underway about the speed limit on Main Street in Antrim. Since the Route 9 issue, trucks are coming through and some perceive their speed to be in excess. The lowest it can be lowered to is 25 mph. Town people are frustrated. Mr. Robertson spoke about solar signs that identify speed in town. The cost is \$1,600 per sign. So far, speeding is not evident.

Hancock and Francestown also purchased signs that track data; time of day to identify trends.

Henry Kunhardt reported their dirt roads came through mud season okay. Francestown is working on several bridges.

Karen Hatcher reported that elections are coming in May. Two candidates are running for one open Select board position. Town meeting is on May 15th. Projects in the works include the Main Street Bridge, and work at the intersection of Route 202. A lot of work is being done on lessening the impact on store owners. Peterborough is working on a water well project with Jaffrey. It will be a joint effort; buying together and running together. It involves a three well system. A letter of intent and MOU between the two towns is signed. It is dependent on funding and will not be paid for by taxpayers but rather by users. Voters are being asked for conceptual approval. In addition, Peterborough had a plan to move the DPW plant. The people on Water Street have concerns. There is an option to rebuild the DPW on the current site. Purchasing a small piece of land would allow this to happen along with the fire department being relocated to this same location.

Ms. Hatcher further reported that The River walk Park that connects the parking lot with the town will open in early May which includes a walking bridge. Town Hall office work is underway. Solarize Monadnock is a group that is working on solar. People are interested. The library project is still short funding. Private donations are approximately \$800,000 short. The town has not released a bond yet. Peterborough has been looking at creating more affordable housing. So Clean has brought in over 200 jobs but we don't have places for them to live. High speed internet is being looked into. A regional bid was suggested rather than individual towns.

Discussion took place about broadband internet as a joint project. A separate meeting might be organized for this discussion. Tim Theberge will organize.

Karen said that as an education issue, broadband fits for a joint cooperative effort. Kids need internet access. A rep from the Select Board and the Planning Boards from each town might meet for this discussion. How can we use the collective influence of the towns to move this forward?

Karen asked as an action step; would each be willing to go talk to their boards to seek volunteers to come to the table for this conversation. Confirmed. It was noted that Antrim already has fiber and Frankestown has Comcast.

John Robertson reported a new bridge on West Street will begin next week through October.

Please send people suggested from each town to Brenda.

3. Schedule of Payments

John Jordan said that Section 198:5 talks about this- *The selectmen of the town, in their next annual assessment, shall assess upon the taxable property of the district a sum sufficient to meet the obligations above enumerated, with such alterations thereof as may be voted by the district, and shall pay the same over to the district treasurer as the school board shall require for the maintenance of schools.*

Mr. Jordan said that assessment takes place in December but towns are being asked to pay in July.

He said that he does not believe the schools can require the towns to pay until assessments take place. It causes difficulty in the towns. Hancock's went up \$60K per month. It is enough to drain the entire unencumbered balance. It is a cash flow issue. The school district must have items they can defer. Last year, some leeway was asked by Hancock and the School District denied the request.

Karen Hatcher asked how that would work if some towns paid and others didn't.

John Jordan said that the Articles of Agreement talks to this. John said that they are willing to pay the amount assessed. There is a 6 month gap.

Myron Steere spoke about the cost of borrowing money for the School District and how that would have to be passed along to the individual town.

John Jordan said that this is an issue and he does not have an easy solution.

Myron said that they have worked with towns in the past when there is a cash flow problem. If every town did this, it would be a problem for the district.

4. Budget Concerns

John Jordan said that if we keep seeing big jumps in the budget, we have to deal with it at a local level; state funding aside. It is a lot of money. There are a lot of things that can be looked at. It appears that the school is living beyond the town's means.

Myron Steere shared that the budget process begins in July. He reminded that the Fact Finder's report was not recommended by the School Board but it was voted in by the towns.

Kevin Pobst noted that the most stable period of the school budget was in the past eight years.

Myron said that the district is coming up on \$7 million to maintain school buildings. Kevin Pobst said that the taxpayers have spoken on this and they support the individual schools.

5. Consolidation Impact Analysis

John Jordan referenced an Elementary School Analysis report in the agenda. Mr. Jordan said that this work cannot be done by a voluntary committee. It would cost \$50K to \$100K to do such a study professionally.

Myron Steere said that it would make sense for us as a district to decide on how schools might consolidate before we are directed to do it in a specific way.

John Jordan said that there needs to be an appropriation.

Tim Theberge exited the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Myron Steere said that the district will talk with the attorney to see how we can go about doing a study with some funding behind it.

6. Elementary School Costs

Costs are still pending. David Jack is working on actual school costs.

7. Other

None.

John Robertson motioned to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. Karen Hatch second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok