

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
106 Hancock Rd.
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUDGET & PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

***Immediately following Public Hearing
at 5:30 p.m.***

Physical Location: None

Virtual Location:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89393507767?pwd=NjJrSVJYd3Y5aytTcjRBZWl3YlZ0QT09>

Meeting ID: 893 9350 7767

Password: 7Erz7f

Phone: +1 646 558 8656 US

Meeting ID: 893 9350 7767

Password: 732792

Minutes

Committee Members:

- Richard Dunning
- Alan Edelkind
- Jim Fredrickson
- Katherine Heck
- Robert Short, Jr.

Present: Jim Fredrickson, Dick Dunning, Alan Edelkind, Katherine Heck, Robert Short, Jr., Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Lori Schmidt, Tim Grossi, Tim Theberge, Stephen Ullman, Janine Lesser, Rich Cahoon, Kevin Pobst

1. Call Meeting to Order

Jim Fredrickson called the meeting to order at 5:43 p.m.

2. Approve minutes of April 23, 2020

Dick Dunning moved to approve the minutes of April 23, 2020. Robert Short, Jr. second. Unanimous.

3. Trust Fund Summary

Jim Fredrickson said that the summary reflects the changes to date. It is estimated that we will have near \$1.9M in the Capital Reserve Trust Fund at the end of the year.

4. Capital Improvement Plan

The plan has been modified to reflect three projects totaling approximately \$80,000 out of the budget and \$187,000 from the trust funds.

Jim Fredrickson asked if any other projects previously planned should go forward, or not, given the current climate.

Jim Fredrickson spoke about \$980,000+ that was taken out of the plan of the \$1.2M. Everything was pushed out one year. He asked if the need to conserve applies to the capital funds politically. Kimberly Saunders said that spending anything in this environment under these conditions is ill advised. Time to complete work is a luxury right now and she recognized the need. Kimberly said that the optics of completing an athletic field, which is not seen as a necessity, is seen as a negative.

Jim Fredrickson asked Tim Grossi to talk about potential work on the Peterborough Elementary School (PES) athletic field. Tim said that the most expensive part of the project would be the backstop. Infield mix, digging of the field, and other material would approximate \$15,000. This field would serve our South Meadow School (SMS) softball team. The softball field has the same dimension as a little league field; it could serve several different purposes.

Dick Dunning said that he would like to see work on the PES field move forward.

Rich Cahoon said that his concern is that if we go back to school in the fall, kids will spend a dramatic amount of time outside. Would this prevent the ability to use the field in the fall for PES students? Tim Grossi said that it could potentially.

Katherine Heck asked about current activity on playgrounds or fields. Tim Grossi said that at the high school, there has been up to three dozen cars in the parking lot. PES is heavily used out back. Katherine Heck asked how it works when there are ordinances to close playgrounds and ours are not.

Tim Grossi said that we should have done the same thing, or could do the same thing. It is unmanageable. He is not sure that social distancing is not being practiced.

Alan Edelkind asked if the field is not completed poses any harm to the district. It does not.

Tim Grossi said that the concern is that there are conditions during the winter time where the field is flooded. It freezes and either is slippery, or a puddle and mud. Wear and tear on a newly seeded field was discussed in terms of another program usage.

Dick Dunning said that the two parts are the softball field and the other is grading and seeding.

Dick asked if we could start with the softball field first.

Robert Short, Jr. asked if there would be an outfield fence. Tim said that there would not be a permanent fence.

Dick Dunning recommended moving forward with at least the softball field as soon as possible using trust fund monies.

Kimberly Saunders said that a public hearing would be required.

Jim Fredrickson second.

Dick Dunning shared the history that there has never been a softball field for SMS to play on. They have always had to access Peterborough Recreation fields with their permission and pay. It would be nice to have control of our own facility to play at.

Katherine Heck said that she agrees with everything that Dick has said but said that her concern is that we are entering a time of uncertainty. She read off the list of other work that is being put off. She asked if athletics is the work to complete now.

Rich Cahoon reminded everyone that the State has just put together its school reopening task force. We might want to tread water until we wait for clarity on this topic. How time critical is this decision? Does this decision have to be made now?

Dick said that this is not time critical. It can be made at a later time.

Dick Dunning withdrew his motion. Jim Fredrickson withdrew his second.

Katherine Heck asked if we could go through and reverse the budget process and decide what our top priorities are should we be able to move forward should things improve.

Jim Fredrickson asked if anything on the list should be considered for completion in terms of what would be a priority.

Tim Grossi said that the security cameras at the high school would be a priority. Kitchen equipment at Great Brook School would be the next priority.

A ranking of high, medium, and low priority identification was asked.

Rich Cahoon asked that an eye be kept on plans needing to be changed given the current situation.

5. Remote Learning Cost Update

Alan Edelkind asked about figures for reimbursable and non-reimbursable costs. Kimberly Saunders reported that more information is to come at the next board meeting.

6. Solar Project Status

Kimberly Saunders said that we are getting legal advice at the board meeting on Tuesday on this topic.

Rich Cahoon said that he would like to know where the panels are being built. He suggested that we should care where they are being built. From a business risk and supply chain perspective, entering into a new project where we are relying on China is concerning. Rich said that the minor trade war that the U.S. is involved in with China could become more serious. There are other options. He would like to know where Revision would source the panels.

7. Other

Tim said that we are receiving \$40,770 back for LED work from Eversource. Work is currently underway at the high school.

Rich Cahoon said that a recommendation is typically made in the spring to pre-purchase heating oil. Tim Grossi said that an agreement has been entered into. We purchased essentially \$1.00 less than budgeted.

Katherine Heck asked if a list of the end of year encumbrances could be considered. Kimberly Saunders said that we are already working on that.

8. Adjourn

Dick Dunning motioned to adjourn at 6:38 p.m. Robert Short, Jr. second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok