

Bond Project Building Committee

Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 23, 2008; 6:00 PM

Mt. Hope High School Cafeteria

Present:

Bill Estrella, Chairperson

Marjorie McBride, Vice-Chairperson

Paul E. Brule

Diana B. Campbell

David L. Dugan

John Saviano

Chris Daly, Project Manager

Jim Farrar, Farrar Associates

Luis Torrado, President from Torrado Associates

Roger Lemieux, Civil Engineer from Cataldo Associates

Chair William Estrella called to order the Bond Project Building Committee at approximately 6:15 p.m.

Mr. Estrella asked Christopher Daly to give a brief update of the project. Mr. Daly stated the job is progressing. The project is on time and on budget. The budget is looking very good cost-wise. The schedule is tight. The team is working well together.

At this point, the committee discussed the following action agenda items:

Civil Engineer's Request for Additional Fees: This is a request of \$30,995 for additional civil engineer fees. Mr. Brule stated that he would approve this request contingent on a statement from Mr. Lemieux outlining the expenses and the availability of prints.

A motion was made by Marjorie McBride to approve the payment of additional fees in the amount of \$30,995. Paul Brule seconded the motion contingent on the letter from Mr. Lemieux. The motion passed unanimously.

COR #98 - Final water connections at the street: This is a request in the amount of \$12,722. Mr. Estrella asked if members of the school committee had any questions regarding this request or needed additional clarification. It had been recommended by the subcommittee to approve this request by a 2 to 1 vote. Mr. Brule dissented. A motion was made by Mr. Estrella to approve the payment of this request; the motion was seconded by Marjorie McBride. The motion passed unanimously.

COR #95R – Storm drainage work at Andrews: This change order request is in the amount of \$124,281. At this point, Mr. Brule addressed the committee stating his disputing the costs involved with this request. Mr. Brule stated that he has scrutinized this bill and he believes that \$86,000 for time and materials expenses is

ridiculously high. Mr. Saviano asked, “what should we do?” Mr. Brule believes the bill should be resubmitted to Lusi once again. He stated he will not approve this request for payment. Mr. Brule also stated that he believes the contractor’s bond company should be contacted.

At this point, Mr. Farrar respectfully requested to speak to the committee. Mr. Farrar stated that the project manager is not looking to just sign off on this issue. He stated that a considerable amount of time and effort has been spent trying to resolve this issue, as well as many other disputes on the project. It has been the objective of the project manager to work with due diligence to maintain the overall objective of completing the project on time; and this has been the top priority.

Mr. Farrar reminded everyone that the original request was for \$179,000. An initial review of the request brought the pricing down to approximately \$138,000-139,000. Presently, the request is \$124,281. He stated that from a Project Manager’s position the costs presented were of fair value for what was being done associated with the type of work and certain situations involved with the project. More importantly, having this worked completed kept the project going and on time. The people are focused about what has to get done in order to complete the project complete and get the schools open. “The big picture needs to be kept at the forefront,” Mr. Farrar stated.

Mr. Estrella thanked Mr. Farrar for articulating this point. Mr. Estrellas

asked the school committee if they had any more questions and/or concerns they would like to discussed. Mr. Estrella stated that he believed the project should not be held hostage because of these charges.

Christopher Daly commented that originally \$100,000 was allocated for this portion of the project. The full ramifications of the drainage issue was not known. In actuality, it is only a difference of \$30,000.

Mr. Brule reiterated his concern that he believes if this payment is approved, the contractor will continue to submit additional charges while threatening to walk off the job if payment is not approved.

Mr. David Dugan then respectfully requested to speak. He stated that he has great respect and trust for both Mr. Farrara and Mr. Daly and that he believes they have adequately looked out for the best interest of the District. The fact that they negotiated the price down to \$124,281 is evidence that they are doing their job. Mr. Dugan stated that he understands Mr. Brule's concerns but does not want to risk the opening of the schools. Mr. Dugan made a recommendation to approve the change order for payment.

Mr. Estrella believes that Mr. Dugan made a very good point. He stated the importance of allowing every perspective on the issues at hand and that clarity of issues allows for everyone to work toward the same goal. The important fact is that the project is on budget and on

schedule, the teams are working well, and the goal is being met.

Mr. Estrella made a motion to approve Change Order Request #95R for \$124,281. The motion was seconded by Marjorie McBride. A vote was taken; the motion passed by a 4 to 2 vote. Those in favor were William Estrella, Marjorie McBride, Diana Campbell and David Dugan; those opposed were Paul Brule and John Saviano. Payment for COR #95R was approved.

The final action item was the Contractor's Payment Application/Requisition #8. Marjorie McBride made a motion to approve payment of the Contractor's Payment Application/Requisition #8 in the amount of \$1,347,515. Diana Campbell seconded the motion. A vote was taken; the motion passed by a 4 to 2 vote. Those in favor were Marjorie McBride, Bill Estrella, Diana Campbell and David Dugan; those opposed were Paul Brule and John Saviano.

There being no further business to discuss, Marjorie McBride made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Diana Campbell seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Juliann Tanguay

Clerk