

# **BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

## **MINUTES**

**Tuesday, January 12, 2010**

**Oliver Administration Building**

### **Present**

**Subcommittee: William O'Dell (Chair), Paul Brule and Karen Lynch**

**School Committee, Administration and Staff: Denise Arsenault, Diana Campbell, Marjorie McBride, John Saviano, Melinda Thies, Mario Andrade, Pauline Silva and George Simmons**

**Guests: Nina Murphy**

**Bill O'Dell called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.**

### **Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION: Paul Brule motioned to approve the minutes to the December 14, 2009 meeting; Karen Lynch seconded; the motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.**

### **Colt Site Work Fund Management**

**George presented the new plans that our architect drew up for the**

playground area. The plans show elevations; the area is graded down in 1 foot increments. The steps have been changed to poured concrete with cement caps; tiles can be installed at a later time if we want to. The lower level is a soft surface paved area easy to maintain.

This plan shows the railings in two locations which are required by OSHA and HDC; they meet code requirements and should not be a safety concern. There is a small area behind some bushes designated for stamped concrete, designed as a small outdoor classroom or "quiet time" area; George would prefer a mulch surface and perhaps a bench. All agreed. There is also a large grassy area; Denise Arsenault suggested the control of a potential goose problem could be a science fair project for a high school student. The parking lot is not included in the plans because that will be done in-house. So as not to jeopardize a spring of 2010 start to the project, we will go out to bid before receiving HDC approval and make and adjustments required by HDC through change orders if necessary.

**MOTION:** Paul Brule motioned to go out to bid for the Colt Andrews Playground Project and spec that we want to be the first job in the spring. Karen Lynch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Nina Murphy left the meeting at 6:48 PM.**

**FY 2010 Budget**

### **Budget Report (attached)**

**Pauline Silva reviewed the attached report on this year's budget as it exists right now.**

### **Governor's Proposed Revised Budget (attached)**

**Pauline also distributed a report from Commissioner Gist on the Governor's proposed revised budget. The Governor is proposing a 3% across the board reduction of state revenues as well as \$440,000 additional pension reform. We could receive \$135,000 in additional stabilization funding. The \$ change without pension is \$562,934, a 2.8% reduction. This has not been enacted by legislature yet.**

### **Analysis of Health Insurance Plan Redesign Impact (attached)**

**The bottom line is \$321,378.46 savings. A savings through HSA was not realized this year because the participants spent 6 months of this year on the former plan. Next year that will not be a negative amount.**

### **Busses**

**Because of non-compliance with the contract on behalf of the bus company, by not having video cameras in all the busses, we have a savings of \$72,230.40. Melinda will check with First Student that camera installation is moving forward. Bill O'Dell remembered that in the past, the use of dummy cameras was considered. The consensus of the Committee is although the cost savings is welcomed right now, we really do want the cameras and the handling of the situation by the bus company is disconcerting. Discussion will**

**continue at the next meeting.**

### **FY 2010 Budget with Governor's Proposed Cuts (attached)**

**Although the reduction will be more than expected, considering the shift in pension costs (revenue neutral); shift in stabilization funds (revenue neutral) and the offset by the health plan re-design, the proposed reduction is covered.**

### **Capital Projects**

#### **5-Year Asset Protection Plan (attached)**

**Diana Campbell mentioned that the high school boys are very happy with the locker room renovation; the girls are asking when their locker room will be renovated.**

#### **Guiteras School Heating Issue**

**George explained the issue with the heating system at Guiteras School. (Costs to the District attached) The hot water lines run from a unit on the roof of the gym through the gym attic into the building. The water is treated with glycol, an environmentally friendly type of antifreeze, which should be changed every 3 to 5 years. Because it was not changed once in the past 10 years, it corroded all the steel fittings and the coil in the unit, causing three separate leaks which caused damage to computers and ceilings. The Trust will cover the damage to the equipment and building but not to the heating system; we have a \$1000 deductible. George recommends replacing the**

**present unit with a gas-fired unit for an estimated cost of \$50-\$60,000.**

**Summit Heating estimates \$40-\$45,000 for the unit; George figures another \$15-\$20,000 for insulation and incidentals.**

**The committee perceives this as an emergency situation and therefore supersedes procurement policy. Melinda and Pauline will consult Andrew to confirm this. We do not want the Trust to renege and claim negligence if another leak occurs causing more damage. George will secure three different estimates for 1) the cost of replacing the unit with a gas unit and 2) the cost of replacing the pipes and fittings, coil and glycol. An emergency Budget Subcommittee meeting will be held at 6:30 PM, in the Mt. Hope Cafeteria, just before the next full Committee meeting on January 25. If George has the three estimates before January 25, Bill will call a meeting sooner. It is possible that Guiteras funds could be used for this and the work would be eligible for housing aid. John Saviano suggested that in the meantime, a special alarm be installed to alert if another leak should occur.**

### **High School Field Project**

**George reported that Maguire can move the project up one month to go out to bid at the end of April; this is a great accomplishment considering the difficulty getting approval from the Army Corp of Engineers and DEM. Diana Campbell and Denise Arsenault are involved in the Town of Bristol planning and recommended we consult with Walter Burke who has been very successful in obtaining**

grant funding. Denise said " money is available for projects having to do with storm water; George will contact Wendy Ferguson of Save the Bay, who gave a presentation recently at the high school; Denise said there money is available if you install impervious surfaces. Marj said that if we give control of the fields to the Town, they could secure a great deal of grant money, but they cannot get it for us; signing a partnership agreement would not work. George will contact Walter. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

### **Mt. Hope High School Windows**

George reported he gave the information to Mancino at the end of the first week in December; Mancino has not started yet because of the weather. All agreed that Paul Brule should make a leverage call to Mancino.

### **RISE Engineering - Controls and Lighting**

George reports the lighting is 100% complete; he will get sign off. The controls are 85-90% complete; so far there has been excellent feedback. They should be completed by the end of the month.

### **Snow Removal Bid (attached)**

Rockland Farm is the former Rodrigues Landscaping, who has plowed for Warren schools since 1967. We have never gone out to bid because the cost did not necessitate it. George recommends Alves, the low bidder. Bristol is plowed by DaPonte; because some school lots are used by townspeople during parking bans, the Town

**covers this expense. George controls the number of times that plowing is done during a big snowstorm, depending on the timing and the functions going on in the schools.**

**MOTION: Paul Brule motioned forward a recommendation to the full Committee to award the bid for snow removal at the Warren school to Alves. Karen Lynch seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.**

**Additional plowing concerns will be discussed at the next meeting.**

#### **FY 2011 Budget**

**The continuation of services as they are this year will require an additional \$1,018,222, or a 1.92% increase in funding.**

**Pauline presented a snapshot of next year's budget under three different scenarios:**

**„Í 4.5% funding increase from the Towns and 5% reduction in State Aid;Xwill necessitate \$671,898 in cuts**

**„Í Level funding from the Towns and 5% reduction in State Aid;Xwill necessitate \$2,038,950 in cuts**

**„Í 3% funding decrease from the Towns and 5% reduction in State Aid;Xwill necessitate \$2,950,319 in cuts**

**Melinda said significant changes at the administration building with the elimination of Pauline's former position have already taken place.**

**Smithfield is just now trying to pare down fiscally to where we are**

**already; we have run a tight fiscal ship and still made major gains.**

**All agreed that the Joint Finance presentation should:**

**„Í Have a strong parent showing**

**„Í Point out in the strongest way possible the outstanding accomplishments of District students and staff**

**„Í Point out in the strongest way possible the excellent educational programs offered to students which will have to be cut if there is insufficient funding**

**„Í Point out the 11% graduation rate increase in the past 2 years**

**Melinda is planning a „Ímeet and greet;” with each of the PTO groups; she will let them know in a very generalized way what we are expecting from the State, inform them of some of the truly great things going on in the District, and will impress upon them the importance of parent attendance at the Joint Finance meetings. The School Committee liaisons will also be invited to the PTO meetings.**

**Adjournment**

**MOTION: At 8:20 PM Paul Brule motioned to adjourn. Karen Lynch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**/ca**