

SCITUATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING-WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2018
SCITUATE MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

1. 6:00 PM – Call to Order

Present were Mr. LaPlante, Chair; Mrs. Guglielmi; Mrs. Pendergast; and Mr. Scacco. Also present were Dr. Lawrence Filippelli, Superintendent; Dr. Michael Sollitto, Assistant Superintendent and Attorney David D’Agostino.

Mrs. Dias was absent

2. Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Chair LaPlante, the Committee and audience participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. New Business:

- A. Ratification of Scituate School Building Committee’s recommendations concerning Architectural/Engineering Services contract with RGB, with a recommendation to the Town Council for award of contract. (Discussion/Vote):

Mrs. Dias arrived at 6:05

Dr. Filippelli: Emails up to the last couple of minutes that engineering could come in less, however if they run into issues it could cost more.

Mrs. Pendergast: If it goes above that amount will it have to go back to the building committee?

Dr. Filippelli: Yes

Mrs. Dias: The bond council is now questioning the possibility of change orders.

Mr. D’Agostino: Everyone heard what went on last night, not to exceed \$340,000. Bond council is getting questions from the Town Council. Is it the total. The changes would have to be vetted.

Mrs. Pendergast: With the information they have today this is their best projected.

Mr. D’Agostino: It is a not to exceed and change orders are to be determined.

Mrs. Dias: The process is Building Committee to School Committee to Town Council to see if we are in compliance for the 35% percent. The bond council is saying that it goes to a vote to the Town Council and it almost never goes that way in other communities.

Mrs. Pendergast: In order for us to receive the 35% it is our responsibility to meet the requirements to get the 35% reimbursement. It is the issuance of the bond so we have to work together.

Mrs. Dias: I get that but there is so much going on. I do not think that there is any doubt that this committee has tried to work together to create a process. Last night at the end of the Town

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Council meeting, (The Town Council had a meeting after the Building Committee last night.) Right now they are going to have an emergency meeting next Thursday to approve this project. Mr. Mahoney is using a \$300.00/hour attorney, he is using his bond council as the be all and end all.

Mrs. Pendergast: Attorney fees comes out of the bond?

Mr. D'Agostino: We put a fixed amount in for the bonds we wrote.

Mrs. Dias: It was the parents that tried to broker so we could move forward, here today at 3:00 pm questions about the amendments.

Mr. LaPlante: They are going to say that they are monitoring the spend. I do not know how they are grinding the process other than a lot of activity or distractions. Are we being slowed by this?

Dr. Filippelli: Today the whole issue was about the commissioning agent. The Building Committee should have been able to negotiate the fee. Today I had to push RGB to focus on the bond work just mechanical, engineering and plumbing for fees. I had to talk to Mike Payette.

Mrs. Dias: Why, they will not approve the architectural and engineering without the commissioning agent, because bond council says that it has to be together because that is what has to happen.

Mrs. Pendergast: They will not approve without the commissioning agent. Because the bond council is saying that at a rate of \$300.00 per hour.

Dr. Filippelli: All RIDE cares about do you have a commissioning agent. Bond council said that RIDE is not following their own rules.

Mrs. Dias: The bond council is saying it is going to be this way at \$300.00/hour, I am worried.

Dr. Filippelli: Bond council said in an email today that you have to follow RIDE regulations, however all other communities do it this way. Monday I will have Collier commit to a contract. Tonight you need to act on the recommendation for RGB.

Mrs. Pendergast: Is anyone on the Building Committee concerned with RGB?

Dr. Filippelli: No, everyone is on board. RGB was unanimous.

Mrs. Dias: The parents asked of the Town Council to just come to the meeting. These committee members are so knowledgeable and they are all over it. The Town Council will not come to the meeting because they said they have to stay neutral. Can we find out if bond council expenses are coming out of the Bond? I want to see what other communities have spent.

Mr. D'Agostino: I will find out how much has been spent and who is spending.

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Mrs. Dias: Bond council is looking for ways to stall.

Mrs. Pendergast: Motion to approve Architectural/Engineering Services contract with RGB, with a recommendations to the Town Council for award of contract.

Mrs. Guglielmi: Second

All in Favor: Yes

Motion Passes

- B. Re-confirming project timelines and approval process: Scituate School Building Committee-School Committee-Town Council. (Discussion Only)

Dr. Filippelli: We want to put Mr. Corrente as the Project Manager, but we have a plan just in case to try and get the extra 5%. Next building committee is April 4th, RGB needs 4 weeks to prepare all the schematics. We will ask the Project Manager from Johnston about their project.

Mrs. Pendergast: We have to have engineering. The commission agent is a requirement of RIDE. We do or not have a project manager.

Mrs. Dias: Only to oversee the mechanicals.

Mrs. Pendergast: It is not a requirement and Bob has the experience.

Mrs. Dias: The way the law is written is that if you have a project manager your reimbursement can go from 35% to 40%, it is like a bonus.

Dr. Filippelli: RGB said we may need a part-time manager, because Bob is so good.

Mrs. Dias: Bob is also doing the clerk of the works duties.

Mr. LaPlante: The legislators could pass legislation to award more.

Mr. D'Agostino: Depending on the scale of the project.

Mrs. Pendergast: Can we talk time-line.

Mrs. Dias: We cannot drop the ball for Thursday.

Dr. Filippelli: Everything has to be air tight. The goal is to have everything but the envelope stuff complete by December 2018.

Mrs. Dias: If we only were able to move forward like other districts. We would have had these contracts done months ago. School Committee has to approve everything on Tuesday night so it goes through on Thursday to Town Council. Please be sure RGB and Collier are there.

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Mr. LaPlante: What is their track record of change orders?

Mrs. Dias: They were under budget in other districts?

Dr. Filippelli: If it does not get approved Thursday I think people will be really upset.

Mr. LaPlante: I think we have to make sure we are vigilant with our end of this and wait and see. If it is so out of bounds then we publicize it more.

Mr. D'Agostino: The Building Committee makes the recommendations and this committee moves it along. We have our mission. The Town Council is taking a very restrictive look at the enabling regulations so that everything goes back to them.

Mrs. Pendergast: They sign the checks.

Mr. D'Agostino: The Treasurer signs the checks. Look, right now we have a building committee with twice the number of people required and they are approving things unanimously in a timely manner and the Town Council still will not take their recommendations. In other communities the Town Council does not delegate to the Building Committee. School Committee has to touch it because that is what locks in the RIDE requirements and then it goes to the Town Council. It is a 3 step process which stalls everything. We have not run into a time when the Town Council does not act. If that happens we as a committee may have to file a mandamus.

Mrs. Pendergast: What is that?

Mr. LaPlante: A court order to make them do something.

Mrs. Pendergast: Do we need to have joint meetings with their meetings?

Mrs. Dias: The parents have asked John to join the Building Committee meetings. The Building Committee does their due diligence, the School Committee approves and then it goes to the finance director. It is just an FYI to the financial director. It is just an FYI to the Town Council because they delegate their authority.

Mrs. Pendergast: Manage our meetings accordingly.

Mrs. Dias: That is what I said to John, you want a pricing from Collier for the commissioning work. Thank God we already have a meeting scheduled. The layers and the scheduling meetings.

Mrs. Pendergast: I do not think there is any way around it.

Mrs. Dias: Brian, you do not think we should have representation at the Town Council meeting.

Mr. LaPlante: We are going to further burden this committee while they go through this lunacy.

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Mrs. Dias: The parents will be upset.

Mr. LaPlante: The point is that it is unnecessary. The vetting process is at the building committee meeting.

Mrs. Dias: John hides behind his bond council, it is the bond council that set this process up.

Mr. Scacco: 2 days ago there was great representation from this Committee at the budget meeting.

Mrs. Dias: I will go to the meetings, but if I am not around I need someone to back me up. Next Thursday someone needs to be at that meeting.

Mr. Scacco: What more can we do as a body? Isn't it on them now.

Mrs. Guglielmi: Questions of the building committee? Mike Payette is the chairman.

Mrs. Pendergast: There is nothing that one member of this committee can do. If they do not like something it comes back here.

Mrs. Dias: When they are misleading the parents it falls on us to correct the information. I am at the meetings defending us.

Mr. Scacco: Good point, I think a lot of people know it is misinformation.

Mr. LaPlante: At the budget meeting the other night. A lot of lack of knowledge and misinformation out there.

Mrs. Pendergast: Perfect example Scott Amaral was asking about the Capital Reserve and people were agreeing with him but it was all misinformation.

Mrs. Dias: I am committed to collaboration and getting this work done. Larry looked for a building committee meeting in December.

Mrs. Pendergast: Is there any relief in sight? Construction contracts are coming.

Mrs. Dias: I think Mike Payette is stepping down as chair.

Mr. D'Agostino: The only thing you can do is to try more things quicker. Once we get past RGB and Collier engagements then when bids are in and then we cluster them and get them in front of the committee all at once and push them to the Town Council meeting.

Dr. Filippelli: Ted is asking about putting the bond out there, should we be worried about the markets?

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Mr. LaPlante: Expose the bureaucracy of this.

Mrs. Dias: Email from the bond council was pages long, about a contract on a Saturday what did that cost the town?

Mr. D'Agostino: It was not a contract, it was a proposal. We need to keep our nose down and keep going forward.

- C. Authorization to change March School Committee meeting date and locations (moving to Scituate Middle/High School). (Discussion/Vote)

No action on this

- D. Authorization to change the location of all scheduled 2018 School Committee meetings to Scituate Middle/High School (Discussion/Vote)

Mrs. Pendergast: Why

Dr. Filippelli: We have no access and no ability to connect to the town's network. Mark has worked out a video on our ClerkBase.

Mrs. Pendergast: Our meetings are not videotaped while we are here.

Dr. Filippelli: Mark is going to put it on a cart so we can get on line and travel with us.

Mrs. Dias: Microphones?

Dr. Filippelli: Mark is ordering all that if you approve.

Mrs. Pendergast: I want this done yesterday. The general public needs to see what we are doing. We are doing the work.

Mrs. Dias: The Project Management RFQ on the Town Council agenda for Thursday. They have to approve everything.

Mrs. Pendergast: Bob Corrente is doing great work but they might see him as us. So if we do go with a project manager it needs to up front, we are not trying to sneak our buddy in.

Dr. Filippelli: Good advice. We will put it on for Tuesday.

Mrs. Pendergast: Motion to approve future school committee meetings to be held at the high school.

Mrs. Guglielmi: Second

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Mrs. Pendergast: We were caught having a School Committee meeting in the school right after a school shooting. Any day meeting during the day while school is in session, it needs to be away from the school. We had to hire a detail officer. We cannot require people to sign in to come to a public meeting.

Mrs. Dias: Do you think, by always having on school premises it is not a neutral place.

Mrs. Pendergast: No we are a school committee.

Mr. LaPlante: No other districts do.

Dr. Filippelli: You always have to schedule the meetings time and locations at a prior meeting.

Mrs. Dias: Can we add that except for day meetings.

Mr. LaPlante: Amendment to the motion.

Mrs. Pendergast: Amend the motion to reflect that meetings will not be held on the school grounds if school is in session.

Mr. Scacco: Second

All in favor: Yes

Motion passes

4. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Scacco: Motion to adjourn

Mrs. Dias: Second

The Committee unanimously approved the motion at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Mrs. Guglielmi, Clerk

Minutes were prepared by Theresa C. Yeaw, Recording Secretary. Neither the Clerk nor the Recording secretary is the designated Public Records contact for the Scituate School Committee or Scituate School Department under the RI Access to Public Records Act ("ARPA"). For all APRA inquiries, please contact the Superintendent's Office.