

Chebeague Island School Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, November 21, 2017

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Chairperson Jeff Putnam. Present: School Committee members Jeff Putnam, Courtney Doughty, Jen Belesca and Suzanne Rugh (Stephen Todd excused absent); school staff Superintendent/Principal Mike Pulsifer and teacher Nancy Earnest; and guest Bob Earnest.

Flag Salute

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Jen Belesca and seconded by Courtney Doughty to approve the agenda as written. The motion passed 4-0.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Courtney Doughty and seconded by Jen Belesca to approve the meeting minutes of November 9, 2017 as written. The motion passed 4-0.

Correspondence

Mike Pulsifer shared a recent mailing from the Island Institute. On the second page was an article about Sharing Solutions for Sustainability. In it was a picture and quote from SC Chair Jeff Putnam about his participation in an Aquaculture Business Development program.

Public Comment

None

Reports

School Committee Chair: Jeff Putnam reported that island resident John Thaxter had spoken to him and said that he would be willing to assist the School Committee in any way they might need during the school renovation work. Mr. Thaxter has extensive experience in building construction and renovations.

Superintendent/Principal: None

Old Business

School Renovation: David Brunner was in attendance and he shared a proposed contract for his firm to do the architectural and design work for the school renovation. There was a lengthy discussion about the contract. It was a standard B104 agreement, with a "not to exceed" cost, and it had specifics in it that were pertinent to the Chebeague Island School project. There was a question about who should sign the agreement; the chair of the School Committee, or the chair of

the Board of Selectmen. Mike Pulsifer was asked to speak to the Town Manager about that. In case it is the School Committee chair that needs to sign the agreement, Suzanne Rugh motioned and Courtney Doughty seconded to approve Jeff Putnam signing the agreement for David Brunner's firm to do the architectural and design work for the school renovation. The motion passed 4-0.

David Brunner also shared a timeline and scope of work for the renovation for his proposal. He also shared a list of engineers he would subcontract. Many questions were brought up and discussed. It was also noted that any proposed design additions or subtractions from the current design proposal must be decided upon soon. Nancy Earnest suggested adding a staff/handicap bathroom might be a good addition to the proposal. Suzanne Rugh suggested a generator be considered, especially since the power outage recently. All suggested changes will be discussed in more detail at the next SC meeting.

Mike Pulsifer shared some information he received after talking to Jim Saffian, the town's bond and legal counsel. Jim suggested getting a bond anticipation note (BAN) from a bank to do the construction phase, and then he suggested getting a twenty-year bond from the Maine Bond Bank to finance the project once construction was complete and spending was over. Mike also shared information from his telephone conversation with Scott Brown, the Department of Education's Director of Facilities, Safety and Transportation. Scott said the DOE does not require any special permitting for a school renovation project that is locally funded, and a letter of approval from the Commissioner of Education is all that is needed. Mike shared with the SC a copy of the letter he sent to Commissioner Hasson seeking that approval.

The School Committee asked that the school renovation topic be placed on next month's agenda to continue the discussion.

New Business

Special Education Review Results for the Chebeague Island School: Mike Pulsifer shared a letter from the Department of Education's Special Services Director, Janice Breton. In it she informed us that we had passed our recent special education audit with flying colors. This finding was a direct reflection on our great school staff.

Other Business

Warrant #8 was reviewed and approval was authorized for the warrant.

Adjournment

Suzanne Rugh motioned and Courtney Doughty seconded to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 7:45 pm. The motion passed 4-0.