

Building and Facilities Committee

Minutes of 1-7-21; Zoom

Members Present: Bowers, Hogle, Sherman, Cardillo, Bianchi, Beasley, Cross; Absent: Cannon

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. The roll was called, and each member present stated that no one else was in the room with that member.

1. *Approval of Minutes*

The minutes of the previous meeting of December 17, 2020, were reviewed by the Committee and were then approved unanimously.

2. *Reports*

Rec Dept.: Rip Cross reported that North Branch anticipates it will be able to provide the Committee with an estimate within the next week or so of the proposed work at the SAU building to serve the needs of the Recreation Department.

DPW: Peter Hogle reported that discussions with the Selectmen and the Conservation Commission regarding the possible purchase of land abutting the DPW property continue.

Transfer Station: Joe Cardillo reported on the discussions at the last Selectmen's meeting (1/4/21) regarding this Committee's request that the Selectmen look into the possible purchase or agreement for use of State land by the transfer station.

Town Meeting: The Chair reported that he is working on the report for Town Meeting which is due by 1/15/21. He will send a copy to the Committee prior to the next meeting (1/14/21) for members to offer their input.

Whipple Hall Subcommittee: Phil Sherman reported on the activities of the Subcommittee.

3. *Old Business*

The Chair noted that he had forwarded to the Committee the response of the Tracy Library Board to the earlier Memorandum of this Committee to that Board and the Selectmen regarding the proposed installation of a sprinkler system at the Library. That response noted that the Board had access to more information than was available to the Subcommittee. He inquired of the Committee what, if any, further action it wished to take. After discussion, it was

the conclusion of the Committee that the Chair would inform the Library Board and the Selectmen that the intent of its earlier Memorandum was to ensure thoroughness of review, and it had no further input to offer. The Selectmen and the Library Board are aware of the concerns raised, and it is their prerogative to proceed as they determine reasonable. The Committee asked the Chair to inform the Selectmen and the Library of this, and to offer any assistance from this Committee they may wish to request, as there is a wealth of experience and knowledge on this Committee that might be helpful to them.

#### *4. Discussion of Priorities re buildings/facilities*

The Chair then turned the meeting over to Phil Sherman and Colin Beasley to discuss an analysis for setting priorities for space requests that have been presented to the Committee. Mr. Sherman presented a spread sheet which categorizes the requests in timetable order, based on the last meeting's discussions: Priority A = Need in 2022 budget year; Priority B = Need in 2023 budget year; Priority C = Need within 10 years; Priority D = Need in years after 10. Colin led the discussion, and the Committee reached initial conclusions related to Priorities A and B. Phil will include notations as to these conclusions on the spread sheet, and the conversation will continue at the next meeting. The Committee concluded that it would have to seek additional information in some instances to have a better idea of the actual space requirements and will inquire of departments as appropriate. The discussion of these matters will continue at the next meeting of the Committee on January 14, 2021. The Police Station Committee will address the safety and security issues raised by Chief Cobb, and report back to this Committee.

As part of the discussion, the Committee focused on issues related to the space and departments at the Academy Building. Each decision as to the space needs and use at that building can lead to different recommendations for future action. The Committee felt it would be wise to establish a subcommittee for the specific purpose of analyzing the space requests and space available at the Academy Building. With the Committee's concurrence, the Chair established a new Academy Building Subcommittee, and appointed Peter Bianchi, Peter Hogle, and Joe Cardillo to that Committee.

#### *5. Other items to come before the Committee*

None.

6. *Action Items*

A. Chair to prepare Memorandum to TML Board/Selectmen re TML sprinkler system.

B. Phil Sherman to prepare and forward to the Chair for distribution a modified spread sheet with the notations discussed by the Committee.

C. Chair to forward to the Committee the Report to Town Meeting prior to the next meeting of the Committee.

The next meeting is by Zoom, on Thursday, January 14, at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Bowers, Chair