

Newbury School District Board meeting 10/16/2018

Present: Paul Jewett, Danielle Corti, Emmy Hausman

Administration: Bruce Williams, Chance Lindsley

Paul calls the meeting to order at 12:05pm

Agenda review: no changes

Paul makes motion to approve the minutes from October 2, 2018 Danielle seconds, Paul and Danielle in favor motion carries, Emmy abstains.

No communications in folder-email communication having to do with the common will be covered during the common discussion.

Contract approval for Chance Lindsley was approved in July 24, 2018 Meeting but was not signed. Paul signs and corrects dates.

Public Comment:

Lisa Hervey is present for the common discussion and will hold comments for that item on the agenda.

Common: Paul summarize what work has been done in reference to the common. Paul has been in contact with Nate Sicard in reference to subdividing the common from the school building. Emails have been exchanged about the process and getting permits. Paul Giuliani was the one who recommended Nate Sicard as an engineer to do the easements and the permitting process. Nate Sicard came to the school did a site survey went over the drawings and blueprints with Dave and was able to contact the town office to ensure all the paperwork was in order and has reached out to a company in St. Johnsbury to make arrangements for the property to be surveyed. Nate met with Nikki and Mary at the town to ensure that he had all that he needed in the way of paperwork. Nates Sicard's engineering work is going to be done quickly but it's the surveyor that's going to need to do the brunt of the work. Once a surveyor is has been hired the surveyor will go through the process we need to clarify what the processes is as far as the paperwork. Who will need to sign and fill out the paperwork, whether it's Paul Giuliani or the school or a combination of the town and the school?

Concern is raised about the fact that if the State Board of Education makes a decision to merge on the 17th that somehow we may lose the ability to sell the common to the town because we would be forced to merge. Paul Jewett has consulted with Margaret MaClean and has been assured that it will not be an issue because we will have done everything we can up to this point to indicate that our intention is to sell the common to the town for a dollar. Including the school district vote. Bruce Williams makes the point that there would be no local desire to strip the ownership of the common from either the school of Newbury or the Town of Newbury and the intention would be to allow the sale to go through. The thought of the reason for the State Board of Education moving their decision processing up by a month is because schools that are going to be forced into merge will need to work on a joint budget and that budget needs to be approved by

the joint board and put up for community vote. This process needs to start earlier versus later. Discussion around budgeting and timing of votes and trying to plan the timing of that.

Common discussion resumes: Paul Jewett reviews what will be needed from Nate Sicard in reference to the state waste water permit and documents that we need to be provided. In that list of documents he listed the ownership of the common needs to be confirmed: whether it's owned strictly by the Newbury school or joint owned by the Newbury school district and the OESU. Danielle Corti calls the Newbury Town Office to verify ownership to ensure that there's nothing that indicates that there is a conflict or some paperwork showing that the OESU has any ownership of the common. After speaking with Mary at the town office it is verbally confirmed that Mary can find no paperwork that indicates that the OESU would have ownership of the common. She will provide additional documentation as needed so that Nate Sicard can provide correct paperwork to the state.

Paul makes a motion to authorize the board to spend \$270 for the permitting fee for the state of Vermont for the wastewater permit and Emmy Hausman Seconds the motion all in favor. Motion carries.

Emmy moves for Danielle Corti to be authorized to sign all documents in reference to permitting and surveying the common required to sell the common to the Town of Newbury as the vice chair. Paul Jewett seconds all in favor, motion carries.

Bruce Williams makes a statement that he will need to leave due to an emergency at the Theford school requiring school to be let out early. And asks to cover the financial report before leaving. We have a \$279,000 fund balance which will be reduced by \$18,451.26 give or take. Assistant superintendent Williams asks about wanting clarification on the capital improvement fund update that was requested he said that that information did not appear to be available at the moment. That there was some information provided in the financial report. Paul Jewett said he was actually anticipating going through the capital improvements with Chance Lindsley as a rundown of what has been done and what still needs to be done utilizing those capital improvement funds. Bruce indicated if we have questions about it just note it in the minutes and Laurie can try to prepare information for set our next meeting. Paul asks when we can have Laurie blood come to the meeting to go over finances possibly our second meeting in November.

Bruce Williams exits meeting- 1:05pm

Conversation returns to the common and clarifying what work needs to be done the board reviews the paperwork that Nate Sicard has provided via email and it appears as though there is an attempt to separate the common into two separate properties rather than separating the school from the common. Paul Jewett attempts to call Mr. Sicard during the board meeting leaves a message indicating that we need to speak with him to make sure that he completely understands what the board need done. The Board decided to send an email to Paul Giuliani, Mr. Sicard, members of the select board and the village trustees including the warning about the votes to make sure that everybody's on the same page. The intention is to set up a meeting on Friday via conference call or in person if they are available. The board formats email communication to all parties involved in an effort to organize a meeting on Friday the 19th at 10 AM. Concerns expressed about the inconsistency between what's being done in reference to the common and what we need to be done. The hope is that we will be able to clarify everything on Friday and

move forward with all of the documents signed and the attorneys, surveyors and engineers on the same page.

AGS legal discussion - there is a team of five or six lawyers Paul and Emmy met with them Monday the 15th along with the rest of the group of approximately 20 other school districts that are pursuing legal action against the state based on the potential for forced merger. Documentation was provided summarizing what the legal arguments will be. Paul and Emmy were encouraged by the amount of preparation and involvement of the groups attorneys. Paul brought a copy of the document that he submitted to the state Board of Education just reviewing what has happened so far with Newbury and the 706B study our community votes and where our community sits based on their feelings on a forced merger. Chance Lindsley expresses some frustration about the fact that administrative meetings they're talking about moving forward on a joint budget and that that's where their focus needs to be and curious as to what the boards thoughts are on that. Danielle expresses that it is her feeling that it is important for him to continue to focus on what is locally needed from him and let the board focus on the legal and the next steps involving act 46.

Chance reviews capital improvement expenditures where we are thus far:

\$112,000.00 has been spent on the following-

flooring

Outside painting

Jazz lab

heating

Blinds

landscaping

appliances for the Jazz lab

inside painting

Chance asks whether or not he should continue, the last big project to be done is the bathrooms which can be done piecemeal as opposed to completely remodeling all of the bathrooms. It is requested by the board that project is to be completed. Board asks about the landscaping project out front. It is expressed that the parking spaces may need to be better defined and that something more substantial may be needed to keep people from pulling in too far. The reason for the landscaping was to correct drainage issues and if people pull too far in they will fill in the drainage basin. Chance will reach out to Upper Valley Landscape on that issue and on having another pathway put in. Over all feedback has been positive and it looks great!

Danielle Moves to approve payroll warrant dated 10/15 2018 in the amount of \$64,435.99 and an accounts payable warrant dated 10/16/ 2018 in the amount of \$41,450.17 and authorize the board chair to sign Emmy seconds all in favor of motion carries.

Board composed email regarding Common and school being subdivided:

Good Afternoon Nate,

In reviewing your emails to date, there is confusion about the nature of the Board 's follow up action resulting from a Newbury School District vote on 9/27/2018. It is the Board 's intent to

separate the school building from the Common (minus the land owned by the Women's club) and convey ownership of the Common to the Town of Newbury for \$1.00.

In order to ensure that we are all on the same page with what needs to be done to make this happen, starting with your role, we are setting up a conference call on Friday, 10/19 at Newbury Elementary at 10 AM. If you prefer to meet in person at NES , arrangements can be made through Danielle Corti for either next Tuesday or Wednesday.

We did vote today to have Danielle be the contact person and to send a check to the State for \$270.00. Please contact Danielle directly if you have question or concerns. I will be out of town from 10/18 - 10/27.

Paul Jewett

Minutes submitted by:

Danielle Corti

Minutes are not official until approved by the board