

Minutes of the Municipal Building Committee
Tuesday, January 20, 2015; Historical Society Room, Center School

Present were Chair Paul Newlin and members Virginia Allis, Adelia Bardwell, Jonathan Edwards, Anita Husted, Judy Markland, Fred Orloski, and Darcy Tozier. Also attending were Joyce Palmer-Fortune, Dan Denehy and Richard Tillberg.

The meeting was called to discuss the draft warrant item for funding of the next stage of the town office and town building project to be voted on at the February 10 Special Town Meeting. (attached) Paul Newlin explained that the wording was designed to be flexible and therefore was not too specific. Judy commented that, to the contrary, she felt that the wording was too specific and would only permit design work and analysis for town offices, not EMS services, potential use of Town Hall for other purposes like a community center, and an appraisal of the sale value of Center School – each of which might be a recommendation of the facilitation process. Jonathan disagreed about the exclusion of EMS from the wording because it is a town function. Fred suggested that the vote be delayed so that it could be drafted after John Goodrich presents his summary, to be sure that the recommendations would be covered.

There was further discussion that the reference to construction documents in the draft warrant would lead people to believe that bid-ready documents would be produced, when the \$50,000 recommended is inadequate for this purpose.

The group agreed to revise the draft wording and unanimously approved the following wording:

“To see if the town will vote to raise or appropriate and transfer from available funds a sum not to exceed \$50,000 for pursuing conceptual cost estimates of the options resulting from the town office facilitation process.”

There was some discussion of the work needed to renovate the regional library building for the EMS service and how it might be financed. Jonathan and Dan noted that septic work would likely be necessary. Adelia commented that site work might be necessary so that the ambulances could have a separate exit from the parking lot. Judy queried how financing could be structured so that Whately is not on the hook to pay debt service should the service disband or move sometime before it was repaid. Jonathan said SCEMS lacks money-raising capabilities and can't borrow itself.

The minutes of the January 12 meeting were unanimously approved.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 5pm and will be again in the Historical Society Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Markland

Attachment

Draft warrant item for February 10 Special Town Meeting, approved by the Select Board on Tuesday, January 13.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of up to \$50,000 for architectural and engineering services under the direction of the Board of Selectmen from design through construction documents to make a building(s) functional for its intended use to house consolidated town offices or take any action relative thereto.

Recommended by the Selectmen
Recommended by the Finance Committee