

**INTRA-BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING ROOM
MAY 23, 2022**

PRESENT: First Selectman Mark Fiorentino; Sarah Thrall (BOE Representative); James Tsapsinos (BOF Representative)

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members: Anna Robbins, BOE Business Manager, Erica Robertson, Town Manager; Jordan Grossman, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools

ALSO PRESENT: Kimi Cheng, Director of Finance; Kirk Severance, Director of Public Works

First Selectman Mark Fiorentino called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Approval of Previous Minutes

ON A MOTION by S. Thrall, seconded by J. Tsapsinos, the committee voted unanimously (3-0-0) to approve the minutes of May 4, 2022 as written.

2. Preliminary Project Discussion

First Selectman Mark Fiorentino thanked everyone for their work on this project. He explained the charge of the committee is for the three boards (BOS, BOF, BOE) to work together more directly to find ways to improve Town services and efficiencies. Currently, they are looking at ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds and provide the Board of Selectmen with a recommendation on how to allocate the money.

He reviewed the Preliminary Project List and explained the committee is trying to reach consensus on the top five to eight projects and noted the projects on the list are not ranked. Per the State, Granby is entitled to \$3.4M. The items the committee felt are worth some initial priority consideration are in the shaded area and the remaining items are listed below. In addition, the cost related to the emergency management system is not on the list because of the timeline for that project.

The First Selectman highlighted a few items on the list.

- HVAC systems at the high school, Wells Road School and Town Hall.
- Town technology, infrastructure and equipment upgrades and communication and software upgrades (related to recording and broadcasting public meetings).
- The need for additional space resulted in a discussion regarding Kearns School. There are two areas of the school that may be useable and a discussion will be needed regarding the cost of getting those areas open to the public.
- A town center study to investigate potential economic development to stabilize the commercial tax base.

a) Public Work Session

Mark Neumann thanked the committee for their hard work. He has spoken to some people about the list and asked for more information regarding #7 Management Infrastructure and a reserve of \$175,000. First Selectman Fiorentino explained there have not yet been any discussions on how to manage the projects so a reserve was added. Mr. Neumann went onto say he believes items 22 (Senior Center kitchen

upgrade) and 25 (Senor Center FFE replacement) should be in the shaded area. He is also hesitant regarding Kearns School as the cost is unknown and it is a sizable portion of the funds.

Steve Wortley, 15 Granville Road, noted he is a volunteer EMT with Granby Ambulance. He would like to see a new ambulance moved to the shaded area as the ARPA funds were created in response to public health emergencies as a response to COVID. He believes the dollar estimates on the list are high and should be re-examined.

Glenn Ballard, 289 Granville Road, inquired about the 10-year Capital Plan in the budget and would like an explanation of that process moving forward. He also feels some of the items on the list were combined and should be split up, such as #10 which deals with both streaming public meetings and enhancing the Town website.

First Selectman Fiorentino asked if anyone had an objection to keeping HVAC systems in the two schools and the Town hall above the line. Glenn Ballard was the only objection.

M. Fiorentino also inquired if there were any objections to keeping the communication upgrades above the line. Mr. Wortley asked if the numbers related to cost of the projects had been reviewed prior. It was stated the numbers had been vetted and gotten as close as possible, but the exact cost will not be known until the projects are bid on. If there is any money left over, it will cover projects further down the line.

Bob Flanigan, of Woodcliff Drive stated in the beginning of the meeting it was noted that it would cost \$3M to get emergency services (police, ambulance, and fire) up to par. He asked if that money is separate or part of the ARPA funds. M. Fiorentino replied that money has not been identified but the hope is to use some of the reserves. Mr. Flanigan also inquired if the three HVAC projects will be done at once or broken up. Although both ways will be looked at to determine what would be cheaper, it was also noted there are several variables to be considered. There are specific time periods when the project can be done in schools, the bid process for schools and towns varies for different projects, engineers will need to be consulted and the projects will need to be designed, etc.

Lorri DiBattisto from GAA inquired if a feasibility study has been done as that could help determine what the base costs may be. J. Grossman noted Wells Road and the area at the high school being discussed regarding HVAC have been scoped out.

Steve Wortley noted that whatever projects are chosen, he believes it is critical an individual be assigned to keep track of the costs.

b) Discussion and Possible Action on Recommendation to the Board of Selectmen

The committee agreed they would like to decide on the first slate of projects to be recommended to the Board of Selectmen. The discussion was tabled and a meeting time will be determined.

Sarah Langdon was unable to attend the meeting but provided written correspondence for the committee and copies were available.

3. Confirm Date of Next Meeting

The committee agreed to convene and will schedule another meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On a Motion by S. Thrall, seconded by J. Tsaptsinos, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Kane
Recording Secretary