

1 Joint Facilities Advisory Committee Meeting

2 Wednesday, November 18th, 2020

3 Meeting Minutes- Approved 12 17 2020

4 Attendees Via Webinar:

5 Administrative Team: Adam Steel- Superintendent and Roger Preston- Director of Facilities.

6 Committee Members: Amy Facey- SCSB Member/ JFAC Chair, Shannon Gascoyne, JFAC Vice
7 Chair, Amherst NH, Victoria Parisi- Amherst NH, Jeanne Ludt, Amherst NH, Brian Coogan,
8 Amherst NH, John Bowkett, Amherst NH, Brian Coogan- Amherst NH, Pim Grondstra- SCSB
9 Chair and Lisa Eastland, Amherst NH.

10 Meeting Minutes: Danae A. Marotta

11 Public: Lance Whitehead- Lavallee Brensinger Professional Architects, Manchester NH.

12 I. Call to Order

13 **Chair of the Joint Facilities Advisory Committee, Ms. Amy Facey, called the meeting to**
14 **order at 5:03PM.**

15 II. Minutes Approval

16 **Ms. Parisi motioned to approve the Draft Minutes of 10 21 2020 and 11 04 2020. Ms.**
17 **Gascoyne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

18 III. Amherst Warrant Article

19 Ms. Facey commented that the ASB has voted unanimously to place a warrant article in support
20 of their recommendations for Clark Wilkins and Amherst Middle School. There was a bit of
21 deliberation and she appreciates everyone's efforts. She congratulated the committee for their
22 success. They did present to the Mont Vernon School Board and had a good conversation with
23 them. They were interested in the scope of the project and how it would affect their tax base.

24 IV. Tax Rate Discussion

25 She noted that they wanted to discuss a little bit more of the tax rate discussion. The Capital
26 Reserve Fund request would be coming from Souhegan School Board annually. That was an
27 important distinction.

28 Mr. Coogan inquired what are the concerns from the ASB.

29 Ms. Gascoyne added that they are looking at this from a holistic plan and it impacts the tax rate
30 differently. She questioned if they need to separate it out for the voters.

31 Ms. Facey replied that the ASB is putting something on the ballot that is defined whereas the
32 Souhegan has scoped a larger scale project. She asked Superintendent, Mr. Adam Steel, if the
33 Souhegan Cooperative School Board could put a warrant on the ballot this year for the CRF
34 (Capital Reserve Fund).

- 35 Mr. Steel replied that they could, that is an option for the Board.
- 36 Ms. Parisi asked about the future scope of Souhegan. She is wondering how much money that
37 top tier needs to be.
- 38 Mr. Steel replied that it would depend, but every year would be a discussion and debate.
- 39 Ms. Parisi questioned if the ASB could still put something on the ballot for Special Services.
- 40 Ms. Facey replied, yes.
- 41 Ms. Parisi asked if the ASB has decided to put the warrant for CW/AMS new
42 construction/renovation and the CRF.
- 43 Mr. Steel replied; he does not believe that they will do both. He asked Ms. Parisi if she meant for
44 Capital Maintenance.
- 45 Ms. Parisi replied, yes.
- 46 Mr. Steel clarified that he still believes that there will be a warrant for future capital maintenance
47 not for future capital projects.
- 48 Ms. Facey added that she hopes that they do that because the new construction/renovation might
49 not pass.
- 50 Ms. Ludt commented that Mr. Coogan does an excellent job conveying the needs of the ASB.
51 She added that it does take time to get buy-in from the community. That is her big worry, having
52 enough time.
- 53 Ms. Facey added that the PR Sub-committee will do their best. The need to make clear that the
54 ASB has decided to put this as a warrant article and it will have a specific tax impact. If
55 Souhegan decides to move forward with having that additional request for funds on an annual
56 basis it would be determined annually.
- 57 Mr. Steel replied, yes.
- 58 Ms. Gascoyne asked what is the high end for the Amherst project, \$2.85 per day.
- 59 Mr. Steel replied, yes, that it is the first year that the bond hits.
- 60 Ms. Eastland noted her concern with asking for funds for Souhegan each year. She suggested
61 that the wording be easy to follow.
- 62 Ms. Facey replied, yes it would be an annual discussion.
- 63 Ms. Eastland recommended asking for a significant amount this year.
- 64 Ms. Gascoyne replied that she believes that the voters would reject everything.
- 65 Ms. Facey added if they had more refined numbers for Souhegan it would be helpful.
- 66 Ms. Parisi replied that they can get more options, to discuss with the Board.
- 67 Ms. Eastland suggested coming up with a specific amount, \$2m.

- 68 Mr. Steel agreed, even if it was \$1m, with priority being the science labs.
- 69 Ms. Facey asked how much were the Science Labs.
- 70 Ms. Parisi replied that she has the amount of \$1.4m.
- 71 Mr. Lance Whitehead, Lavallee Brensinger Professional Architects, replied that there are 25%
72 soft costs that can be reduced. He added that with Souhegan is a discussion of scope.
- 73 Ms. Parisi commented that the locker room cost that she has is \$1.1m. She inquired what that
74 included.
- 75 Mr. Whitehead replied that is the first-floor renovation of the Locker Rooms to be Title IX. They
76 would not do the team rooms at this time.
- 77 Ms. Facey suggested to have some notes for choices to make.
- 78 Mr. Whitehead added that they have broken them in 10 different categories. He suggested that
79 they include Harvey Construction in that discussion. He suggested that they have a large
80 meeting.
- 81 Ms. Parisi asked what should JFAC bring to the Board. She believes that it is for the
82 administration to weigh in on. She knows that the Science Labs are a top priority for
83 Superintendent Steel. She inquired about the funding mechanism.
- 84 Ms. Ludt commented that her philosophy is that when something is needed that it should go in
85 the budget. They will have to be creative about how to get these pieces funded.
- 86 Ms. Facey added that “pieces” is the correct word and that is the granularity that they need to get
87 to.
- 88 Ms. Eastland inquired about what the Board is expecting.
- 89 Ms. Facey replied that it depends on the scope that is being proposed. She is looking for a next
90 level of refined scope and cost.
- 91 Mr. Grondstra echoed Ms. Facey. Not all of the board members are aware of where they are at
92 with the JFAC. Ms. Ludt made a good point about putting items in the budget. There are lots of
93 nuances that they can look into and the more information that they can provide to the board the
94 better the output they will get from that.
- 95 Ms. Ludt mentioned that there are some items that are already slated to be fixed or repaired. She
96 is not sure how fluid that list is.
- 97 Ms. Facey replied that it is based on the Onsite Insite Report.
- 98 Mr. Preston referenced the report. Nothing is set in stone and they can be moved around.
- 99 Ms. Facey replied that those are maintenance issues, these are for facility improvements, they are
100 two separate things.
- 101 Mr. Bowkett suggested they make the Souhegan 2.0 a two-part system.

102 Ms. Facey noted it is up for the board to decide to put forward. She would like to give them as
103 much information as possible to decide. She does not like giving them a number. She suggested
104 doing some cost refining.

105 Ms. Gascoyne inquired if they can put the UFB on a warrant article.

106 Ms. Facey replied yes, that is typically how they are structured.

107 Ms. Gascoyne asked about the dire need of the Science Labs.

108 Mr. Whitehead replied that according to NH Chapter Ed 300- Administration of Minimum
109 Standards in Public Schools sets that level at about 1,200 to 1,400 square feet. The Annex
110 Science Labs are at 750 to 800. They do not enforce it like a building code.

111 Mr. Bowkett suggested that they put it on the ballot and let the voters know.

112 Ms. Gascoyne added there is a lot to explain to the voters and it is all valid.

113 Mr. Grondstra asked about taking this down to a manageable level.

114 Mr. Whitehead replied that they are there with the Science Labs. They have made the decisions.
115 The big question is what is palatable for voters to support. In the long run they need the 3
116 Science Labs. There are a lot decisions they can make.

117 Mr. Grondstra asked if there were economies of scale that they can use.

118 Mr. Whitehead replied that there are economies of scale and they would get a better price. It is
119 not the same situation as CW, can they spend \$500k or \$1m and how much will the taxpayers
120 support.

121 Mr. Coogan added that he keeps hearing the word “minimum” a lot. He does not think that the
122 people that moved here are looking for the minimum, although they are fiscally prudent. It is not
123 as if they are asking for outlandish extravagant things. Having a high quality, long lasting
124 product does take money. They can keep going down the path of the pinching pennies, but they
125 will have a less than a viable product and it is not a good use of their tax dollars.

126 Ms. Gascoyne noted her concern with the amount that they are asking for. She commented that
127 she does not believe that they have not prioritized everything.

128 Ms. Parisi replied that the priorities are CW and AMS and then the three items at Souhegan.

129 Ms. Facey mentioned that they can discuss that at the next meeting. She suggested refining the
130 three projects.

131 Ms. Parisi added that she will work on some numbers.

132 Ms. Eastland asked about the other possible warrant articles. She noted that she is on the Ways
133 and Means Committee and often hear from citizens that they are not coordinating with the Town.

134 Ms. Facey replied that they are a separate entity and something to keep in mind.

135 Ms. Gascoyne inquired about if they should start discussing the tax rate in the subcommittee. She
136 is reluctant to add that information to the website until they get it confirmed.

137 Ms. Facey agreed, and added that they will work on the scheduling the next meeting.

138 V. Meeting Adjourned

139 **Ms. Facey adjourned the meeting at 6:08PM.**

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