

Richmond Municipal Building Committee

Oct. 13, 2020 5:00 pm (via Zoom)

Attendees: Pat Callahan, Stephanie Belling, Kathryn Wilson, Mark Gross, Dick Stover, Roger Manzolini, Kristin Smith

Guests: Nanci McConnell, Neal Pilson, Katherine Keenum, Danielle Fillio, Bob Gniadek, Dan Pallota, Curtis Edgin

Sept. 22, 2020 meeting minutes: **Approved**

Dan and Curtis gave an update:

- Costs have not escalated and will not need to be re-estimated – materials harder to get, labor is easier
- Fewer municipalities are starting projects right now
- Interest rates are incredibly low now, so it is a good time to build

Danielle reported a positive outlook for the town's finances:

- Tax receipts continue to be paid, no change from other years
- The proposed merger of RCS and Berkshire Hills School District will NOT happen (the state recommended that it not happen) so that financial worry is off the table
- State funding is stable and was NOT decreased as might have happened

Question posed to Curtis: would there be any changes to the building plan in regards to COVID19 health concerns? He reports that it would not have a significant impact. The modern HVAC systems provide great ventilation for new buildings. Additions might include more hands-free doors, hand-free faucet and toilet flushers in bathrooms, automatic light switches, plexiglass barriers, and possibly an automatic UV light sanitation system for the bathrooms. These options will not really change overall budget. This new building will replace 2 unhealthy town buildings.

NEXT STEPS:

- Mail a letter to ALL town residents from the committee. It would explain why we should now go forward, an overview of the project, and invite all to Zoom informational meetings. Pat will draft a letter for review by committee. Donation to the Friends of the Library could cover the cost of the mailing.
- Zoom meetings to be scheduled to give information and answer questions in anticipation of funding vote at May 2021 town meeting.
- Parts of presentation: problems with town hall and library buildings, project details, budget considerations and tax rate implications, frequently asked questions, COVID19 questions
- Curtis and Dan will assist with the slides for the presentation and with "branding" of the materials
- We will need to have "controls" for the Zoom meetings to avoid "bad actors" Zoom-bombing! We will set up a sign-up system where residents can join one of 5 or 6 meetings.
- We will set up an email address for residents to send us questions that they would like addressed
- Dan will make a timetable for us to use in moving forward.
- Danielle will find out new numbers for financing and work with Bob G. to estimate tax rate implications.

Next meeting: Tuesday Oct 27, 2020 at 5:30 (via Zoom)

Meeting adjourned: 5:50 pm

minutes submitted by K. Wilson