

Whitman Middle School Building Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: December 16th

Location: Whitman Middle School Library (Being filmed and broadcast on WHCA)

Attendees:

Kathleen Ottina
Robert Curran
Jeffrey Szymaniak
Brandon Frost
Mike Driscoll
Rich Pulkinen
Crystal Regan
Steven Bois
Josh MacNeil
Mathew Carew
Justin Evans
George Ferro

Absentees:

Beth Stafford, *Chair*
Don Esson

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order, beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance

No members of the public were present for comment.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes from the previous meeting were not available for approval at this session.

Funding Update

- The funding update was presented by George.
- The committee reviewed financial information through November for Propay.
- An active balance of approximately \$1.7 million remains in the account.

- Municipal Report covered the total estimated project cost of approximately \$124 million
- The district is awaiting approximately \$8 million in MSBA reimbursements. The typical turnaround time for reimbursements via the Propay system is 35-40 business days
- A large, outstanding reimbursement for \$6.9 million from July has been worked on with Colliers due to a variance and is ready for submitting.

OPM Update and Construction

- A brief recap of the construction tour noted significant progress with mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) installations
- The auditorium area on the ground floor is expected to have finishes completed by the spring
- Construction spent to date is **\$28,403,682**
- Total project spent to date is **\$39,926,100**
- A generator has been delivered to the site and will be installed in the coming months (p. 3).
- The cash flow log was reviewed, and the project is generally tracking in line with projections

Financing and Borrowing Discussion

- There was discussion regarding the amount of money to borrow in February. Concerns were raised about borrowing the full project value and locking in a long-term bond, as a bond cannot be refunded for 8-10 years.
- The district's ability to borrow is contingent on the fiscal year 2024 audit being complete, which is unlikely to happen in time for the February 18th deadline of the current \$30 million bond maturity.
- To circumvent this, Mary Beth proposed an intermunicipal agreement where the Town of Whitman would take over the borrowing at a lower interest rate
- The Town would receive MSBA grant reimbursements and wire them to the district upon invoice approval.
- The committee members present unanimously offered a "nod of approval" for the concept of the town taking over the borrowing authority via the IMA. The formal vote would occur at a later School Committee meeting. The associated article for the town meeting is already on the warrant.

Invoices

- The following invoices were approved unanimously:
 - AI3 Invoice: **\$64,816.16**
 - AI3 Invoice: **\$681.14**
 - Collier's Invoice: **\$71,180.75**
 - Tilton Electric Invoice: **\$398,781.59**
- **Total amount approved for payment: \$535,459.64**
 - Motion – Steven Bois
 - Second – Brandon Frost
- Fontaine's invoice was missing due to holiday issues and will be added to next month's meeting agenda.

Other Items

- RFP for a tax consultant has been issued to several firms, with a selection expected next month.
- The PCO (Project Change Order) log was reviewed. Several items are ready for change order number three, which will be brought to the committee in the next month.
- Inquiries were made regarding the finalization of the original lease and a copy of the builder's risk insurance policy, which the team will follow up on.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for January 20th at 4:30 PM in the high school library.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Kathleen Ottina, seconded by Steven Bois, and passed unanimously.