

Minutes September 17, 2020

Present: Tom Finnegan, Graham Gitchell, Wes Staples, Bob Bartlett, Scott Talbot, Steve Horton, Mike Petrovick and Hunter, and Randall Walter

Meeting convened at 4:00 p.m.

A motion to accept the minutes of the September 10 meeting was offered by Scott, and seconded by Graham.

Steve started the meeting with a handout which showed the cost-cutting changes he made to the conceptual building budget estimate. Each item that was adjusted was discussed, and it was explained that deletions made could possibly be added back as costs are better known.

It was decided to hold off on the truck exhaust system in the truck bays, in hopes of securing grant money to pay for a system chosen by the firefighters which best serves their needs.

Steve then discussed the many changes that occur in the building industry, comparing the present per square foot cost to the per square foot cost of the West Brattleboro station that was built just four years ago. He went on to discuss other cost cutting options, but the committee replied that the numbers were much lower now, the per square foot was now 13% lower, and that it was a very frugal building. There is turmoil in the construction industry right now, and market conditions vary, but he felt things in the past tended to change over a six-month period.

Further topics and questions included the possibility of installing radiant heat in the building, within certain areas to be determined, and the necessity for floor drains in the bay area, as well as a generator for the building. With the approval by the BOS to have Rob pursue the permits from DES and the DOT, the next step will be for the estimated budget to be presented to the BOS at their meeting on October 1. Scott made a motion to advise the BOS to then make the project design and costs public. The motion was seconded by Bob. The committee then discussed the idea of submitting an article for a bond at the March town meeting for an amount up to the budget estimate.

The process that follows the bonding was then explained at length, involving a construction manager, the bidding process, the various bonds and other issues to be faced as the project moves forward.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Bartlett