

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Kent Memorial Library Commission

November 18, 2014

Bob Brooks called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

I. Roll Call of Members

Present:

Mike Alexopoulos
Robert "Bob" Brooks
Sam Coatti
Benito "JoJo" Cuevo
Rebecca Fuller
Joe Grimard
Kathie Harrington
Claire Kawalec
Robert "Bob" White

II. Discussion of Funding for the Kent Memorial Library renovation and entrance project.

Bob Brooks started the discussion by noting that any motion made should clarify or include mention of the previous 300 thousand commitment of the library commission to the renovation and entrance project.

Mel Chafetz then led a discussion on the history of the project and its funding, particularly the glass issue (including the effect that it had on funding with the state grant) and the funding issues that have arisen since the bids were opened several weeks ago i.e. the deficit in funding for the "entrance" part of the project. Mel passed out two exhibits, one detailing the cost of the project in total and where the dollars in the project came from and the other, the Proposal to Close the Budget Gap of \$1,050,000.

The proposal showed the Town of Suffield, Michael Zak and KML Capital Account each contributing 350 thousand in additional funds to close the "gap."

The elements of the "gap" were then discussed which focused on the contingencies (PCB's and the possibility of "ledge" in the hill that is to be removed).

Bob Brooks then mentioned that some funds that were allocated to the renovation part of the project were reallocated by the Town to the entrance portion of the contract as a result of that portion of the bid possibly being less than the allocated funds.

Mel then explained the three way split that had been proposed to make up the budget gap which is 350 thousand from the Town, Michael Zak and the library capital account.

Mel then explained the process that will take place in the next few weeks which is the Selectman's meeting and then the Town Meeting.

Bob White then asked where the Town's portion of the "gap" was coming from and Mel responded that he believed it was from the undesignated fund balance.

Kathie Harrington then asked about the balance of the library's capital account and whether there was enough in it to respond to the request. Michael Alexopoulos and Claire Kawalec

responded that there were sufficient funds. Following that, there was some discussion on the history and the intent of the library endowment funds.

Bob White then discussed the history of the funding for various library projects, making the point that the Town has relied on the library over the years to fund projects that he believed should have been funded by the Town.

The other members then expressed their thoughts on the project and funding the gap generally reflecting the idea that since the Town has contributed the excess of funds from their renovation project and another 350 thousand, that they thought that the library should also fund their portion, in addition to the 300 thousand already contributed.

Bob White then commented that the capital account was intended largely for a new library and spoke to the purpose and history of the library capital account but there was general agreement that the additional contribution being requested was an appropriate expenditure of the library's capital account.

A motion was then made by Joe Grimard as follows:

In addition to the 300 thousand already committed to the "entrance" project by the library commission, we agree to contribute an additional 350 thousand towards the completion of the Kent Memorial library renovation and entrance project.

The motion was seconded by Kathie Harrington.

The motion passed with 7 voting for the motion

Mike Alexopoulos

Sam Coatti

Benito "JoJo" Cuevo

Rebecca Fuller

Joe Grimard

Kathie Harrington

Claire Kawalec

with one opposed (Bob White).

Bob White expressed a concern that there might be a reduction of the number of parking spaces in the south parking lot as part of the "value engineering." Mel stated that both the Permanent Building Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission had stressed the need for that lot. Sam Coatti then stated that it would be important to monitor the project and any "value engineering" that was taking place to ensure that no adverse changes were made.

Bob Brooks then adjourned the meeting at 8:15PM

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Brooks, President
KML Library Commission
November 18, 2014