

Minutes are considered "DRAFT" until approved at next meeting

Minutes
Farmington High School Building Committee
Wednesday, June 28, 2017

Present:

William Wadsworth
Justin Bernier
Johnny Carrier
Jean Baron
Hilary Donald
Dan Kleinman
Mecheal Hamilton

Kathy Eagen, Town Manager
Kathy Greider, Superintendent
Russ Arnold, Dir. of Public Works
Bill Silva, High School Principal
Meredith Trimble, Town Council Liaison
Kathryn Howroyd, Clerk of the Committee
Paul Dominov, Kaestle Boos Associates
Enrico Chiarillo, Kaestle Boos Associates
Chuck Boos, Kaestle Boos Associates
Ken Biega, O&G Industries Inc.
Marc Sklenka, Colliers International

Absent:

Jean Baron
Tim Harris, Director of School Facilities
Vincent La Fontan, School Business Manager

A. Call to Order.

B. The chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

C. Public Comment.

Beth Kintner, 24 Farmstead Lane, thanked the committee for their hard work and commended the committee on their community involvement, communication and outreach. She expressed disappointment in the referendum results as well as the opposition group's methods. A copy of her testimony is recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item C.

Pam Fisher, 5 Jules Court, Unionville, thanked the committee for their commitment and dedication. She was thrilled with the voter turnout, but that doesn't change the fact that FHS has been cited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and continues to have security and ADA issues.

Nancy Nickerson, 45 Farmington Ridge Drive, thanked the committee for their hard work. She expressed her disappointment that the project did not move forward, but was thrilled with the 40% voter turnout. She agrees that there is a need to address the issues at FHS, but we need evaluate the best way to address these needs. It is clear that we need to move forward with something in the near future.

D. Minutes.

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1) To approve the attached May 3, 2017 minutes.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Kleinman/Carrier) it was unanimously VOTED: to approve the May 3, 2017 minutes.

2) To approve the attached April 5, 2017 minutes as amended.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Kleinman/Carrier) it was unanimously VOTED: to approve the April 5, 2017 minutes.

E. Various Communications and Written Appeals.

Town Manager Kathy Eagen informed the committee that many residents sent comments and questions to the committee between May 22 and the referendum date. All questions received via the website were answered by Town/Board of Education staff. She did not provide copies of all the correspondence, but committee members can contact her for a copy if they would like to read all of the comments and questions.

F. To approve the following invoices:

1) Dan Hansen, Educational Consultant, for the revision of the Educational Specifications in the amount of \$900.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Kleinman/Carrier) it was unanimously VOTED: to approve the invoice from Dan Hansen in the amount of \$900.

2) Colliers International in the amount of \$8,048.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Kleinman/Carrier) it was unanimously VOTED: to approve the invoice from Colliers International in the amount of \$8,048.

3) Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$8,920.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Kleinman/Carrier) it was unanimously VOTED: to approve the invoice from Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$8,920.

4) Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$4,460.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Kleinman/Carrier) it was unanimously VOTED: to approve the invoice from Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$4,460.

G. To review the attached financial report.

Town Manager Kathy Eagen provided the committee with a financial update and reported that the expenses to date are \$176,802.80. The invoice payments made today will bring all contracts up to their full contract amount. Ms. Eagen will review the O&G contract for language regarding their payment.

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A copy of the financial report is recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item G.

H. Other Business.

Chairman Wadsworth opened up the floor to give committee members an opportunity to speak regarding the project.

Marc Sklenka, Colliers International, informed the committee that he is available to answer any questions members may have at this time.

Ken Biega, O&G Industries affirmed that O&G is here for the long haul and is committed to working until a referendum passes.

Johnny Carrier said that he is waiting for the Town Council to give the committee a direction and he is ready to get back to work.

Hilary Donald commented that she is ready to go back to work to develop a solution.

Dan Kleinman commented on the high quality of professionalism by the committee, Board of Education staff, and Town staff. He would like to see a high school that is reflective of the educational programming and believes the committee can come up with something that is acceptable to the voters.

Kathy Greider, Superintendent, expressed appreciation to everyone for the thoughtful process dating back to 2013. She is always impressed with the spirit of Farmington. The referendum results do not diminish the committee's efforts of an exemplar process.

Chuck Boos, Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc commented that Kaestle Boos now has extensive knowledge of the facility and site and would like to be a part of any future project.

Chairman Wadsworth expressed that it was an honor and privilege to work with everyone over the past 18 months. The 40% voter turnout shows an engaged community and the result was not about education, but the cost of the project, tax impact and degree of uncertainty with the State of Connecticut. The voters have spoken and the committee has to accept their choice. All components of the statement of needs were incorporated into the building, and when the numbers were presented, a small difference in cost for a renovation vs. new building led the committee to their decision for a comprehensive design. He explained that future activities depend on the Town Council and the committee will lay dormant until a decision has been made. He thanked the Board of Education administration, Town Staff, the Town Council and Board of Education for their work on the project, and thanked the building committee for their dedication.

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I. Adjournment.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Carrier/Bernier) the meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathryn Howroyd
Clerk of the Committee

DRAFT

Beth Kintner, 24 Farmstead Lane
FHS Building Committee meeting, 6/28/17 - Public Comment

I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who worked hard over the past 17 months or so to come up with a plan for meeting the needs at our high school and being responsive to town residents. I want to commend you on the community involvement you incorporated, and your communication and outreach efforts. Although I did speak out with concerns I had during the conceptual design phase, and I wasn't always happy with what was scaled back in the designs, I thought the final proposed plan that came out of the committee was a well thought out and very appropriate plan given the many factors that required attention.

I am proud of Farmington Future's dedicated, bi-partisan volunteers who came together to form a remarkably skilled and committed team that worked hard to get the FHS project passed at referendum; each one knowledgeable about the plan proposed for the high school. Everyone came from their slightly different perspectives with the aim of moving this town forward. I could not imagine working with a group of people with more integrity or higher values. Our message relied on facts, focused on the positive aspects of the high school project, and our tactics were always above board, and we are extremely proud of that. Farmington is fortunate to have these citizens in their midst. I know that when the time comes for us to regroup and come together as a community again to address the high school facility, these people will be ready and just as determined, if not more, to support the effort and work hard again.

Of course we are disappointed with the outcome of the vote, as are many others in our town. But I have made it a point to assure those who worked so hard that we did all we could in what was a very difficult situation.

What is even more disappointing is the manner in which the NO group relied on the misrepresentation of the facts, exaggerations, scare tactics, and unethical behavior – all which were the basis for a smear campaign against an excellent plan for the town's high school facility. The voters in Farmington were taken advantage of by the maneuvers used by the opposition group, and because of this, we all missed an opportunity for a fair referendum process.

But what is most disappointing; appalling really, is that we have elected and appointed officials in town who actively worked with this opposition group and therefore endorsed and utilized their manipulative methods. I don't fault people, even elected or appointed officials, for disagreeing with the project. But the use of the objectionable tactics that were the mainstay of the Responsible FHS group is completely unacceptable. Two members of this committee – Justin Bernier and Mecheal Hamilton – were involved in the opposition group's efforts; therefore aligning themselves with their dishonest and even unethical tactics. Mr. Bernier went so far as to sneak documents (with no attribution to his group), into the official town handouts at a Town Meeting, in a deceitful maneuver aimed at swaying voters' opinion.

I realize we don't yet know exactly how things will move forward regarding the FHS project, or what the time frame will be. But I do want to point out that should this Building Committee continue its work without being disbanded, that Mr. Bernier and Ms. Hamilton should not be involved in any official capacity due to their involvement in the opposition group's efforts, which had a detrimental effect on the referendum. This process and our town deserve an honest and reliable approach to such an important community issue.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,



Beth Kintner

Farmington High School Building Committee

Cost Category	Original Contract Amount		Total Expenses To	
	(Budgeted)	Revised Contract Amount	Date	Pending Payment
KBA Architects	\$89,250.00	\$89,250.00	\$76,037.38	\$13,380.00
Colliers	\$48,000.00	\$48,000.00	\$39,776.00	\$8,048.00
O & G	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$0.00	
Office Supplies	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$18,050.59	
Current Expense	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$2,463.83	
Ed Spec Consultant	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$7,425.00	\$900.00
Hazardous Materials	\$23,250.00	\$23,250.00	\$23,250.00	
Geotechnical Engineering	\$11,500.00	\$11,500.00	\$9,800.00	
Total Project Costs	\$230,000.00	\$230,000.00	\$176,802.80	\$21,428.00
Authorization	\$500,000.00			
Expenses to Date	\$176,802.80			
Pending Expenses	\$39,428.00			
Remaining Balance	\$283,769.20			

* Does not include some miscellaneous expenses (i.e. June Postage Adjustmnet/Chartwells)