

School Committee Meeting-via Zoom
January 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
Draft Minutes

Present: Jim Dannhauser, Tom Hoppensteadt, Ron Mycock, DJ MacKinnon, Adam Zais, Mark Lynch, Jaci Barton, Frances Parks, Ray Pirrone

Ms. Parks requested that if anyone has a question to please raise their hand to keep the meeting organized.

Minutes: Mr. Pirrone requested a change in the wording of last meeting's minutes. Ms. Parks will note change. Motion to accept minutes with edit, second, all in favor.

Cotuit School Building disposition Possible Uses-Discussed if the District may have other ideas for uses of building besides being used as a fire station/municipal office. Reviewed that it could be used as previously discussed or tear it down, or other reasonable options to review. Mr. Dannhauser discussed from last meeting that there are two separate decisions that need to be made and feels it is a risk wrapping them up together. First decision is does the District want to try to enter into a discussion with the Town by virtue of which the District takes ownership of some or all of that property. Second is a separate issue if we never did anything else with it but either demolish the building or left it standing and use it for something without specify it today. He feels combining the two becomes more complicated to explain effectively on a public basis. His opinion is to get control of the property regardless of what the District does with it.

DJ MacKinnon agrees and feels should make a decision to move into negotiations with the Town, get some sort of contract to see what the terms may be and to give the District time to evaluate. Ms. Parks and Mr. Zais agree. Mr. Zais does not feel it would be in our best interest to wait for the Town to potentially demolish the building and then figure out if we can get the property.

Mr. Hoppensteadt agrees, and mentioned that it was discussed at the recent Water Commissioners meeting and was unanimous that all of the property be transferred to the District for the protection of the water and then other uses may be made down the road.

Mr. Mycock and Ms. Barton agreed. Ms. Barton stated options would be contingent on District vote so it would be a non-binding agreement until the District votes on the property.

Ms. Parks is leaning towards having a Special District Meeting as she is not sure if this Committee may speak with the Town Manager, will check with Mr. Boudreau. Stated the next problem would be coming up with a place for the Special District Meeting-Mr. Zais suggested the school. Ms. Parks stated could ask the for the Towns permission and could use Districts equipment.

Mr. Dannhauser stated he feels before a Special District Meeting is scheduled there needs to be some investigation about cost of demolition, estimates about ongoing costs of owning the property, and the Prudential Committee will have to approve the expenditure for the costs of the investigation.

Mr. Lynch agreed and stated also need to include the possible implications of the carrying costs.

Ms. Parks stated not able to spend any money to hire anyone as that would have to be approved at a District meeting.

Mr. Hoppenstead reviewed what Mr. Anthony said about showing interest and sending a letter to the Town and that the water commissioners have discussed this and voted on it in a public meeting. Ms. Parks is not comfortable with the water department contacting the Town separately from the other Committees. Mr. Lynch agrees stating would like to present a united front. Mr. Hoppensteadt stated letters have already been submitted along with two formal testimonies to the Town that we were interested in making sure the property was protected in perpetuity and this was announced in two public meetings, plus voted unanimously to send the letters. Discussion continued about the **second letter** and the meaning behind it.

Ms. Barton feels should ask Mr. Boudreau to attend a meeting that is purely in executive session to discuss moving forward.

Ms. Parks made a motion to go into Executive Session for Purpose five. To consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public committee and The Committee will not return to public session. Second, all in favor my roll call Dannhauser, Hoppensteadt, MacKinnon, Pirrone, Mycock, Zais, Lynch, Barton, Parks.