

MINUTES OF THE JOINT COMMISSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND SCHOOL BOARD
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM
October 2, 2018, 2018, 5:45pm

Committee Members present: Councilor Martin Dumont, Chairman
School Board Member Donald Austin
School Board Member Matt Hanlon

Administration/Staff present: Mayor Dana Hilliard
City Manager Bob Belmore
SAU 56 Superintendent Robert Gadomski
Deputy City Clerk Kelly Gagne

Chairman Dumont called the meeting to order at 5:53 pm.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Motion made by Austin moved to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2018 meeting. The motion was seconded by Hanlon. The motion was approved 3-0.

OPENING DAY FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Superintendent Gadomski updated the Committee that the opening day of School facilities was fine, except the heat from the weather. The facilities are in good shape.

Mayor Hilliard brought up that the elevator at the Middle School needs replacement at some point. The door has been getting stuck from time to time. Gadomski stated that an estimated cost is \$200,000 - \$300,000 to replace it, which would include moving the elevator shaft as it cannot stay in its current place. Mayor Hilliard stated that he believes the elevator is original to the building.

Manager Belmore stated that the elevator replacement is in the CIP for 2020 in the amount of \$300,000.

CTC COOPERATIVE CONCEPT IN TRADES SUPPORT

Chairman Dumont stated that our neighbors to the North and South are involved with this concept. Students would be interns at companies such as, Safron and Turbocam for example. Chairman Dumont asked the Committee where are we at with that.

Gadomski responded that he has started to have discussions about increasing intern opportunities. Looking long term, the goal is to get to a point where kids in their last semester can become interns with these companies, and have a job lined up when they graduate.

There was lengthy discussion on ideas for open intern positions with nearby companies and municipal positions within the City. The Mayor mentioned including the City and provided the need for firefighters. Belmore stated he agreed and had mentioned the same to the Superintendent at a recent department head meeting when discussing the topic and he mentioned the pressing need for water and wastewater plant operators, highway plow operators, etc. Belmore stated that the City Economic Development Manager was coordinating a roundtable meeting and had invited various companies to participate as well as the Superintendent to further discuss internship programs. It was scheduled for December.

CEMETERY ROAD PARKING VISION, PATHWAY FROM MAPLE WOOD

Chairman Dumont stated that Cemetery Road is used for parking for the students. There is concern that the repaving of the road will impact parking for the students. Manager Belmore stated that we are still in the design stages but the plan is to have little to minimal impact. Belmore also stated that the TAP Grant and Complete Streets Cemetery Road project would be discussed at an upcoming Council Public Works Committee meeting.

SOMERSWORTH SAU WITHDRAWAL DISCUSSION

Austin stated that this has been a discussion topic for quite some time. The Somersworth School Board has reached a consensus to withdraw from SAU56. The Board thinks it is appropriate to do this now because of the withdrawal of Rollinsford students from Somersworth Schools as one example. The SAU now only utilizes the SAU building on West High St. There would be an additional loss of revenue of about \$193,000 to Somersworth if the withdrawal occurs. The withdrawal process would take up to 2 years to complete.

Mayor Hilliard agreed with Austin the collaboration between the Somersworth City Council and the Somersworth School Board is a model that shows that what we are doing is working. He is comfortable to have the Office of the Mayor stand behind this potential action. He believed that this would be in the best interest of the Somersworth Community. Somersworth will lose revenue but gain dedicated staff time for Somersworth students.

There was a robust discussion on the pros and cons of this decision and how this process would proceed.

The Committee decided that the School Board needs to first make a formal vote to begin any withdrawal process, and then discussion could come back to Joint Commission level, and then be brought to the full City Council.

MAPLE WOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BONDING UPDATE

The bond issue was approved last night at City Council meeting.

Austin asked about the appointment of a JBC (Joint Building Committee) He and Mayor Hilliard spoke about the composition of members to be added to the Committee, 2 or 3 from each Body. Consensus was for a 4-member JBC.

MISCELLANEOUS

Manager Belmore stated that the CIP is being put together for an Oct 17th @ 5:30, for the presentation to the planning board; he suggested keeping the date/time free, and he would confirm.

The Mayor suggested they consider a Joint City Council - School Board goal setting session for early November prior to the holidays. He added to ask the Manager to contact PRIMEX to see if they could facilitate as was originally planned for the last one that was cancelled. The consensus was to do move forward with scheduling one.

NEXT MEETING – TBD

The next Joint Commission meeting will be held on Monday, Oct 15, 2018 at 5:00pm.

ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned by Mayor Hilliard, seconded by Austin at 7:04 pm. Motion approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Gagne, Deputy City Clerk