



PLANNING & BUILDING COMMITTEE
Merrimack School District
<http://www.merrimack.k12.nh.us/PBC/>

Minutes
February 13, 2012

Present: G. Perry, S. Heinrich, R. Hendricks, D. Powell, F. Rothhaus, L. Rothhaus
and School Board Liaison G. Markwell

R. Hendricks called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M.

Approval of Prior Minutes

S. Heinrich made a MOTION to approve the minutes of January 30, 2011 as corrected. Second: D. Powell. MOTION PASSED: 3- 0 1. (D. Powell abstained.) R. Hendricks asked G. Markwell to clarify to the School Board that the Committee is open to meetings being taped for cable, as long as the meetings can be held in the Committee's regular meeting room.

Athletic Facilities Report

Members reviewed a template of the report, filling in details and determining what other information was needed to complete the report.

- Track:
 - Members agreed to use information from the minutes on the current condition of the track as well as long and short-term costs and needs.
 - Someone needs to find out what year the track was installed.
- Athletic Field surfaces
 - Grass: A fully utilized grass field has about a one-year life expectancy. Grass fields need to be regularly watered and mowed. An issue of concern is water bans. The cost of water just for the football field is about \$2,000 annually. The chart provided by Maintenance shows about \$30,000 yearly costs to maintain athletic fields and this figure includes labor. The football grass field is only used on game days and usage is good weather dependant. Usually when a grass field is installed, some downtime is required for the field to "take-hold."
 - Synthetic Turf: These fields usually come with an 8-year guarantee and have 12-15 years life expectancy depending on actually uses. It cost about one million dollars to install. Many companies offer a maintenance plan. These fields have minimal maintenance – a Green Zapper machine is used to "rake" or blow off debris. Cost will vary depending on what type turf was used.
 - Astro-turf: Most places are moving away from "Astro-Turf." This type of turf is more like a single layer of carpet over cement. It doesn't bounce

and there are concerns about the numbers and types of injuries on this turf. However, it does appear to be good for field hockey.

- Experience of surrounding towns
 - Members agreed to include the chart showing the information they had been compiling about area communities' fields.

The Committee also discussed the effects of one project on the other. At issue was whether the projects should be undertaken separately, and if so, which should be first or whether both projects should be undertaken simultaneously.

D. Powell made a MOTION to recommend

- a. A new football field of medium height synthetic or artificial grass be installed at the high school and
- b. Installing the new field and replacing the current track should be done concurrently due to installation issues.

Second: G. Perry. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Members stated reasons to support this recommendation include reduced water usage, increased field usage and increased length of sport season.

Another draft of the report will be sent to members before the next meeting for review so that any final revisions can be made at that meeting.

Annual Report

Members reviewed a draft annual report.

R. Hendricks noted that the report includes mention of the parking lot project at Reeds Ferry School, which will be on the ballot in April. He said he thought the Committee could vote to recommend this project. R. Hendricks made a MOTION to recommend the Warrant Article for reconstruction of the parking lots at Reeds Ferry School. Second: S. Heinrich. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

S. Heinrich made a MOTION to approve the Annual Report. Second: D. Powell. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Other

Central Office Project: R Hendricks reported that he had received an updated Central office project cost estimate from Sullivan: \$1,512,996. He stated the cost per square foot was \$138.81. He noted that included with the estimate was a proposal to cut and sell the timber that would be cleared from the site, which could generate funds toward reducing the total cost. Members noted the new cost figure was \$350,000 less than the original proposal and that there was other areas of the proposal that could be tweaked to get the total cost under \$1.5 million dollars.

Minutes, 2-13-12, continued

Filing Period: R. Hendricks reminded that filing period was February 22 – March 2 and that his and D. Powell’s seats were up for election this year. He indicated that he would be running for re-election.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Committee will be March 12th. R. Hendricks said the only item on the agenda would be final review and approval of the Athletic Fields report, which would then be presented to the School Board on March 19th.

S. Heinrich made a MOTION to adjourn. Second: Everybody. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

R. Hendricks adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Heinrich