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TOWN OF BURLINGTON

Meeting Minutes — Ways and Means School Subcommittee

DEPT./BOARD: Ways and Means School Subcommittee
DATE: January 26th, 2022
TIME: 7:00-7:40pm
PLACE: WebEx Conference Call

Present:

Roger Riggs, Rob Neufeld, Jayashree Voruganti, Ed Parsons, Chris Campbell (at 7:30)
Tom Murphy, Chris Monaco, Martha Simon, Eric Conti, and Bob Cunha

Agenda

- Article #11 – Fox Hill School Feasibility Study
- Article #12 – Fox Hill School Feasibility Study – Non-MSBA Project – Withdrawn

Bob Cunha gave a recap of the current status:

Warrant article #11 requests authorization for \$1.5 million to fund an Owners Project Manager and feasibility study as required by the MSBA.

The MSBA has accepted the Burlington Fox Hill project into the eligibility phase. The MSBA process is a 7 year process from eligibility to opening the school.

The MSBA board vote to enter the feasibility study phase requires that 1) Burlington accept the enrollment figures determined by the MSBA and 2) to authorize funds for the feasibility study as defined by MSBA.

Fox Hill School Building committee members are concerned that the enrollment figures are too low and do not reflect the model of teacher to student ratios supported by parents and the School Committee.

Continued discussions with the MSBA staff reflect that the next phase, the feasibility study – a 2 year process, will more completely explore the requirements and there is flexibility to re-evaluate some of the baseline numbers. The feasibility study can consider both a 1-building and 2-building solution. The feasibility study phase includes sizing and scoping and preliminary engineering design and cost projections.

The Fox Hill School Building committee and the School Committee supported continuing to work with the MSBA, requesting an extension on the evaluation phase and supporting the warrant article.

Roger: There have been many questions about funding the full projects with and without the MSBA support and the concurrent project proposal with the MSBA to renovate the High School. Projects of these sizes with or without MSBA financial support need to be evaluated in the context of Burlington's long term bond schedule and the impact of principal and interest payments on the operating budget.





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Additional questions:

Q: How much of the costs are reimbursable?

A: The total cost must be authorized by Burlington as a sign of the towns commitment to the project.

The MSBA determines a reimbursement rate for the project (typically from 30%-50%) and considers for reimbursement the standard, necessary element of the project. For example, the costs of the feasibility study are reimbursable.

Q: What is covered by the warrant article, in the \$1.5 million?

A: The amount is an estimate based on previous projects sufficient to determine the scope and scale and develop preliminary plans and cost estimates. Any funds not used for the feasibility phase can be used for the building and construction phases of this project.

Actions taken:

The W&M school subcommittee voted 4-0-0 to support Article #11, in the amount of \$1.5 million.

