

Ashland Tri-Board Meeting

April 14, 2020

Location: Per Governor Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. C. 30A sec. 20, the meeting was held via an online Zoom Conference as posted on Agenda. Zoom Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/344040239>

Mr. Steve Mitchell opened the meeting at 6:00 P.M. by reading the following:

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 order suspending certain provisions of the open meeting law, we are utilizing the Zoom conferencing platform to conduct our meeting and all board committee members are participating remotely. The goal is to maintain the spirit of the open meeting law, providing access and transparency to all proceedings. When appropriate, efforts will be made to allow for public participation through the Zoom platform. Your patience with any technical difficulties is appreciated as we conduct meetings in this new way.

AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION

He announced that the meeting is being broadcast live, live streaming on Facebook, and recorded by WACA-TV. Mr. Mitchell reviewed the agenda, adjusted the order, and received consensus from the Boards and Committee.

Mr. Mitchell took attendance.

Mrs. Tosti took attendance.

Mr. Warnetski took attendance (at 6:30 p.m.)

Select Board Roll Call Attendance: School Committee Roll Call Attendance: FinCom Roll Call Attendance:

Mr. Robert Scherer- Here

Mr. Kendall- Here

Mr. Scott Warnetski- Here

Mr. Joseph Magnani- Here

Mr. Terry- Here

Mr. Ryan Turncliff- Here

Ms. Brandi Kinsman- Here

Mrs. Bates- Here

Ms. Jennifer Cooney- Here

Mrs. Yolanda Greaves- Here

Mrs. Tosti- Here

Mr. John Walsh- Here

Mr. Steve Mitchell- Here

Mrs. Williams- joined at 6:45

MINDESS SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT RECCOMENDATION

Mr. Kendall, School Committee member, gave an update on the Mindess School Building project. He was joined by the Project Team who shared the presentation on screen.

Mr. Kent Kovacs, Flansburgh Architect design team member, explained how this is a 3-stage process with the Mass School Building Authority, in which they are currently in the middle stage known as the Preferred Schematic Report. This is the stage where the town comes to a decision as to what is the recommended option they want to move forward with. A report is submitted to the MSBA on May 6th, with an MSBA Board vote to approve the Preferred Option on June 24th. This will lead to a fall funding vote at the fall town meeting.

Mr. Kent Kovacs, Flansburgh Architect design team member, discussed the three main project variables: Grade configuration, site evaluation, and sustainability. Grade configuration will be the 3-5, 635-student enrollment. Of the two sites that were evaluated to accommodate the school project, the Mindess School is the site they would like to move ahead with, specifically Option 2D.2. The site benefits given were larger site providing more outdoor space options, more flexibility with traffic circulation, abatement and demolition of current building eligible for MSBA reimbursement, and straightforward future expansion options. Dr. Caira spoke to Option 2D.2's 3 academic house model and how it will allow for horizontal collaboration within the grade levels, as well as vertical multi-grade units. This option will truly allow for the best of what is being done now.

Mr. Chris Schaffner, CEO of The Green Engineer, gave an overview of the sustainability design and the path to Net-Zero. The MSBA has green school requirements that need to be met, which they will exceed.

By having a robust building envelope, they will be minimizing heating and cooling of the building by increased wall and roof insulation above code requirements, adding sunshades outside the building, and using triple glazed windows. He shared a chart with three options, with Option 2B the most viable green systems. Option 2B is ground source heat pumps with supplemental cooling tower and natural gas boiler. This option uses minimal fossil fuels.

Mr. D'Amico, reviewed the cost estimates. Construction cost estimate of \$67.3 Million, Soft costs of \$16.8 Million for a total Project cost of \$84.1 Million. He reviewed the project schedule, projecting breaking ground December 2021, with school opening in Fall 2023. He ended the presentation with the next steps schedule.

Motion for the Select Board to support selection Option 2D.2 for the Mindess site as the preferred design option for submission to the MSBA made by Mrs. Greaves, seconded by Mr. Magnani.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Mitchell- Aye
Mrs. Greaves- Aye
Mr. Magnani- Aye
Mr. Scherer- Aye
Mrs. Kinsman- Aye

Motion that the School Committee selects Option 2D.2 on the Mindess site for the design option for the submission to the MSBA made by Mr. Kendall, seconded by Mrs. Williams.

Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. Williams- Aye
Mr. Kendall- Aye
Mr. Terry- Aye
Mrs. Bates- Aye
Mrs. Tosti- Aye

Motion to approve Option 2D.2 as a preferred design option recommendation to the MSBA made by Mr. Turncliff, seconded by Mrs. Cooney.

Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. Cooney- Aye
Mr. Turncliff- Aye
Mr. Walsh- Aye
Mr. Warnetski- Aye

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Magnani, Public Safety Building Committee Chair, gave an update on the Public Safety Building project. The scheduled meeting for today has been postponed until Thursday, April 16th at 4 p.m. It will be regarding the HV/AC building plan design for the new building. The meeting will be held on Zoom and can be accessed with the **meeting number 526 885 695** for any community member who would like to attend.

The architects are working diligently to meet the scheduled deadlines.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Mr. Michael Herbert, Ashland Town Manager, gave an update on COVID-19 as it relates to Ashland. He informed everyone the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases is 65, with 11 recovered. They will continually update the community with new information.

Last week, he made a personnel shift, asking Sargent Ed Burman of the Ashland Police Department (APD) to come and be the task lead for the COVID-19 response as part of the Health Department. He thanked the APD for loaning him out to them. With this move, Mr. Herbert hopes to gain coordination with the additional support, using Sargent Burman's administration and medical background to help pull it all together.

They are addressing and serving the residents food insecurities through the Food Pantry, the 3R program, and Meals on Wheels, broadening their approach so families will have food to eat every day.

They are starting to look at the social/emotional portion the COVID-19 closures is having, as it is difficult on everyone.

Economically, the legislature held an economic round table, all agreeing that it will be bad, with worst-case scenario of state revenue decline of up to 20% in FY'21. Comparing this to the 2008-2009 recession, it could be a 50% increase over that. He is unable to say what that means for the FY'21 Budget right now. They will be looking to move the Town Meeting to June, hoping there will be more information on what the revised state aid numbers will be. It is too early to tell right now. He did point out that the towns stabilization fund is very different than it was back in 2008, 600K then compared to 7M now. A best-case recession scenario is a V shape, a sharp decline but quick recovery.

He feels it is important for the town and school system to move forward with these building projects because there may be the possibility of stimulus funding in the future that will help us do some of these projects. Most of the time the projects need to be "shovel ready" which is why they should continue.

Mr. Adams gave an update on the conversations with the Commissioner of Education. MCAS has officially been cancelled. More information is expected from the Governor in the next few days regarding the extended school closure. There will be more remote learning guidance from the Department of Education once school closure decisions are made. Mr. Adams does not anticipate the schools opening up again this school year.

Motion to adjourn the Select Board made by Mrs. Greaves at 7:32 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Scherer.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Mitchell- Aye

Mrs. Greaves- Aye

Mrs. Kinsman- Aye

Mr. Magnani- Aye

Mr. Scherer- Aye

Motion to adjourn the School Committee made by Mr. Terry at 7:33 p.m. Seconded by Mrs. Williams.

Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. Williams- Aye

Mr. Kendall- Aye

Mr. Terry- Aye

Mrs. Bates- Aye

Mrs. Tosti- Aye

Motion to adjourn the Finance Committee made by Mr. Warnetski at 7:33 p.m. Seconded by Mrs. Cooney.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Walsh- Aye

Mrs. Cooney- Aye

Mr. Warnetski- Aye

Mr. Turncliff- Aye1

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Bates

The next Tri-Board meeting is scheduled for

Documents used at the meeting

Mindess School Building Project, Feasibility Phase: Preferred Schematic Report