

Amherst Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2017

In attendance: Joseph Jayne, Bernie Kubiak, Tim Neale, Janice Ratner, Anurag Sharma, Marylou Theilman (Chair). Absent: Steve Braun (Vice-Chair)

Others present: Sonia Aldrich, Co-Finance Director

Meeting called to order at 6:31 PM

Agenda Topics

1. Article 23, Jones Library Preliminary Design and Authorization for Grant Funding.

Regarding estimates for the required maintenance on the library: Ratner went to trustees meeting last week; notes that it will take 106 weeks if the library stays open during construction and will need to absorb the additional cost. In terms of the new information on required maintenance, the repairs do not make the library ADA compliant, only \$100,000 of the estimated costs is for accessibility. Spending on required maintenance likely triggers Architectural Access Board compliance. The estimate does not include cost for designer, hazardous material abatement. Any work on the skylight will entail design and additional costs not reflected in the required maintenance estimates. This brings it close to the cost of the grant project but with no gains in space, usability

Theilman suggests a second vote, given the new information. Neale: article has no money in it, should emphasize that, to not go ahead doesn't make fiscal sense because we would not have a chance to obtain the grant. Ratner notes the committee didn't have this information when we last discussed the matter, so it is helpful to discuss it.

Sharma asks that since 106 weeks equals two years, what is it they want to do. Not sure why it doesn't include all the other costs in it? Theilman suggests as there was a limited amount of money for the study, so they bought what they could, so it doesn't address the total cost of maintenance.

Neale notes in comparing the numbers, town cost of about \$16 million, compared to what just the deferred maintenance is cost, we're up to \$11 or 12 million, making it close enough to go for the grant. As such we don't need a really accurate number.

Ratner: the expansion project will allow for the same size collection with ADA compliance.

Sharma observes that there are people saying we don't need all this, so five or seven million may not make a difference.

Neale moves that after review of renovation cost, the committee should confirm a vote that it makes fiscal sense to apply for the grant. Ratner seconded and the affirmative vote was unanimous (6-0-1 Braun)

2. Third Quarter Budget Update

Aldrich reviewed the third quarter report. In terms of revenues, Cherry Hill earnings are down, opened in March last year but in April this year. Memberships are down. Police fines are being reduced at courthouse, so that number is lower than expected. As for expenses, things are as they should be. A deficit at the child care facility is due to a hot water heater replacement. Snow removal costs are adjusted for at town meeting.

\$160,000.00 returned from the regional school assessment due to statutory limits being reached on the excess and deficiency account. Transportation fund revenues are down due to meter malfunctions. New meters will be installed in August

3. Minutes

None.

4. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated

None.

Ratner moved to adjourn, seconded by Neale. Motion carried unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bernie Kubiak, Clerk Pro Tem

Documents referred to: Jones Library Required Maintenance Estimates; Third Quarter Finance memo