

September 4th, 2013
Sullivan School Board Meeting Minutes

Sullivan Town Hall Basement

Board Members Present

Stephanie Jacques Kleine, Ken Dassau, Toni Ellsworth, Paul Bolduc, and Melinda Scherpa

Citizens: Mary and Ronald Hull and Chris Pratt

Meeting opened without quorum at 6:36.

Mary Hull addressed the board and shared the town financial reports of 2011 and annual report of 2012.

Toni Ellsworth commented on a proposal from a Hampshire First Bank for a loan of 3.3% for a 5 year loan. She went over the particulars of the loan agreement. Toni clarified that the bank desired for an 'expert' statement on the legality of proceeding. Connecticut River Bank was 2.9% for the loan.

Mary Hull commented on a number of banks that she has looked into that seemed uninterested. She went over the things that we would have to do to set up this process with the bank.

Ken Dassau commented that Dave Bradley and Brian Donovan have each left voice messages but has yet to communicate.

Mary Hull commented that the town tax rate could be held off till mid November at best. 3rd week at the latest.

Stephanie Jacques Kleine commented on the appraisal process and that the bank would initiate it. She suggested that we apply now to start the process.

Chris Pratt commented that the title to the town should be pretty straight forward beyond the property being split up a while ago. He gave a brief history of the Mason Nims farm and how it evolved.

Melinda Scherpa arrived at 6:41

Stephanie Jacques Kleine opened the meeting call to order at 6:47

Mary commented that she felt Connecticut River seemed to really want our business.

Special Meeting

Chris Pratt felt that it would be safe to proceed...he was concerned that the court would allow us to do it. Does the town vote on "raise and appropriate mean permission to do so?"

Ken Dassau commented that this is a unique situation and speaking with Dave, the creative financing at the district meeting, the town has agreed to raise the money. Dave Bradley has been working with Karen Luebke who is best suited to help with financial details.

Mary Hull asked why it wasn't caught by someone before now.

Melinda Scherpa commented that it was in the budget per the budget Committee at the district/town meeting. The overlook is the tax rate set date wasn't paid attention to with fidelity.

Ken Dassau spoke of the need to pay Monadnock and begin by doing a pay process and that the board should have a motion to do so soon.

Chris Pratt inquired if the court set the date and posting rules.

Ken Dassau commented on the court ordered posting being completed Sept3rd. Dave seemed to feel that we would have some leeway for the special meeting posting.

Chris Pratt commented that if the decision by the court on the 23rd of September would push the date to October 9th. He questioned if the court could trump the 14 day requirement of the posting.

A question for Dave Bradley, SSD Lawyer.

In conversation the board believes the July posting of the meeting is satisfactory but Ken will confirm with Attorney Bradley, SSD Lawyer.

Mary Hull thought that it would be legal if the court said it was ok. She felt that it was best to check with Dave to ensure it is ok.

Stephanie Jacques Kleine asked about the public notice posting in the Sentinel.

Chris Pratt commented that as long as it is in the town's newsletter, it will be ok.

Paul Bolduc commented about a discussion with Becky Cummings about the communication with the townspeople about the efforts being made in the coming newsletter. A paragraph was submitted and edited to reflect this communication and also serve as a public notice.

Mary Hull shared the final version for the coming newsletter.

Chris Pratt commented that the date of October 1st meeting was ok.

Sullivan School Building

Stephanie Jacques Kleine advised Mary Hull about the timing of the loan offers with the banks to see on the timing of the future loan to cover the debt of the school.

Ken Dassau commented on the limitation of spending money that wasn't appropriated. This is despite anticipated revenue overages.

Toni Ellsworth commented on the 185,000 and that if partial payment is made, the loan or appropriated amount would be less.

*** Melinda Scherpa made a motion to make an initial payment to MRSD Of 20,000 of the 185,000 that we owe them pending approval of the district's lawyer.**

Paul Bolduc seconded motion.

Discussion: all members were agreeable to the motion.

Stephanie Jacques-Kleine called for a vote and it was unanimous. (Melinda Scherpa - Yea, Paul Bolduc- Yea, Stephanie Jacques-Kleinee – Yea)

UPDATES

Ken Dassau commented on the positive start to the year for our students and that things have started very smoothly.

Meeting went into private session to discuss student issues.

Meeting resumed in public session.

Toni Ellsworth commented on not having any bills to be paid currently. She also commented on the need for a printer still. She will research them to purchase one.

Stephanie Jacques Kleine commented that the town's Budget Committee confirmed the further reduction of the price. She also discussed sale options including.

Stephanie Jacques Kleine commented on the desire to attend Nelson's school board meeting. Paul Bolduc commented that he may be able to attend as well.

Next meeting will be on September 18th at 6:30

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55

Respectfully Submitted by

Paul Bolduc
September 5, 2013