

Seekonk Human Services Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 25, 2013 @ 3:30pm
Board of Selectmen Meeting Room
Work Session

Attendance: Christine Allen, Guy Boulay, Rene Andrews, Vicki Kinniburgh, Anne Libby, Beverly Della Grotta, Ashley Pimental (Senior Secretary)

Open work session at 3:37pm

Robert McLintock

Mr. Sagar and I agreed to look at the North School because there is available space for a temporary move. This morning we had a walk through with your committee, the building inspector, and the collaborative.

Christine Allen

Wasn't the Collaborative going to give more space to alleviate some of the congestion at Pleasant Street?

R. McLintock

I didn't get all of the information but they said there is space available for us. The electrical needs to be updated, the extension cords need to be removed.

C. Allen

I think staying where we are is the simplest and cheapest solution. There won't really be any outlay of money because the Collaborative is talking about picking up the expense.

R. McLintock

I honestly don't think this is the Collaborative's job to do that. This is the Town's responsibility.

V. Kinniburgh

I think what they were saying was if the upgrading needs to be done; the Town should be taking that end rather than the Collaborative.

R. McLintock

The heating system came up this morning; there is nothing wrong with the heating system in that school. There is something wrong with the heat in that room (Human Services).

Irene Andrews

The safety issue is still going to be there.

R. McLintock

According to what I was told this morning we are not in violation of anything over there except the Federal Law which says you have to have handicap accessibility. MA Laws say that you are grandfathered in, which they are, they can stay like that until a major renovation.

Gary Sagar

I gave these (print outs of the pods) at the breakfast, it is 2 pages. This (poster) shows the Knights of Columbus property. The reason the Board of Selectman took the vote was based on the recommendation of the Town Administrator to remove the seniors from Pleasant Street. When you talk about grandfathered laws, the Federal Laws surpass all laws. I am not comfortable with the seniors staying at Pleasant Street.

Guy Boulay

The Board's decision to move, does it move to the specific location or another location?

G. Sagar

What has happened, the Board's decision is to move from Pleasant Street, the only thing that's been available to use is the Knights of Columbus.

V. Kinniburgh

How much is the monthly cost going to be?

G. Sagar

Knights of Columbus would be approximately \$2500 with water and utilities. There's a big parking issue up at North School. It's going to require additional relief through the Church.

David Parker

The BOS feel it is necessary to do something because of the public statements recently stating that it is an unsafe building. I am not going to subject the Town to the liability. When we voted to do this at Knights of Columbus, we were honestly told it was the only alternative available left. Now if there is a possibility to move them to North School which would be for less money and it meets everything from parking to handicap accessibility, I am not against changing my mind.

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Anne Libby

When do you they think a decision will be made?

D. Parker

Based on what we know right now, we still have a couple of loose ends at Knights of Columbus. Nothing has been signed yet, nothing is final.

Beverly Della Grotta

What about the liability now?

D. Parker

That is exactly what we are worried about right now.

Anne Libby

Why do you suppose this wasn't brought up before?

D. Parker

It was in the past, 7 or 8 years ago, e-mails and letters stating that the building is unsafe. But I think what happened this time, some public officials made some statements, that this particular Board became aware of an unsafe building. This is not the same Board from 7-8 years ago, they can't be held accountable.

B. Della Grotta

Is there extra insurance that could be taking out until the move to cover the liability?

D. Parker

No, the insurance company will not increase the liability.

G. Boulay

The important thing is the safety aspect, I understand the liability is a big thing.

D. Parker

Exactly, as one of the BOS said regardless of whether we got coverage from the insurance company, how would you personally feel is you left someone in that situation?

V. Kinniburgh

We appreciate the three of you for speaking to us. We primarily did the work session to look at alternatives and give out feelings on the move.

C. Allen

Pleasant Street is off the table. Our choice is Knights of Columbus or North School. I would want to support North School because it would cost less.

Bruce Alexander

The BOS came to the Finance Committee to ask for reserve funds. The Finance Committee did grant the \$20,000. Some of that may be needed for the computer system and telephone system from Pleasant Street to wherever it moves to.

V. Kinniburgh

I think what is confusing is, the article for the Town Meeting to approve \$20,000.

B. Alexander

The article was submitted for the February Town Meeting. It was submitted before the BOS went to the Finance Committee.

G. Sagar

Would this board like to vote on a preference of North School or Knights of Columbus?

V. Kinniburgh

We can't vote today, we're in a work session.

Robert Blanchard

I think the best solution is where you are. The only problem I have with the school is I haven't heard anyone say what space you are going to use.

C. Allen

I don't think it's appropriate that the knitting group has moved to someone's private residence without a discussion.

R. Andrews

They don't feel safe there. There have been 8-10 knitters there but it has gone down because they don't feel safe. So they will meet somewhere else until we move.

V. Kinniburgh

The office is supposed to only have 7-8 people in the office according to the fire code.

Work Session Adjourn 4:41