

~ ~

Present: Joseph E. Flanagan, Wayne R. Walker, and Heather M. Billings

Others Present: Advisory Board members James DeLisle, Brian Ruland, Peter Normandin, Burt Gendron and Lisa Rocheleau. School Committee members Josh Schonberg and Leonard Beaton; School Business Administrator Sherry Kersey. Keith Harding.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Selectmen’s Office at Town Hall. He announced that the meeting was being broadcast live and recorded by Ashburnham Westminster Community Access TV. He also confirmed that Gardner News reporter Kerry O’Brien was taking an audio recording of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS/MINUTES

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve the following warrants:

August 13, 2012	Payroll #9	\$174,340.40
August 13, 2012	Accounts Payable #10	\$267,303.89
August 14, 2012	Deductions #9D	\$155,678.50

Motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION REQUESTS

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve a payroll authorization request for a part-time Dispatcher. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve a payroll authorization request for a spare driver for the Council on Aging. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WINDOW SILL PROJECT

Ms. Kersey distributed a summary of events from the date the window sill fell from the second floor window of the elementary school on March 11, 2012. She also provided copies of the initial design proposed by Mount Vernon Group to make the repairs.

Mr. DeLisle asked whether the contractor had offered to make the repairs at no cost, and if so, whether their offer had been declined. Ms. Kersey confirmed that Legrand Masonry offered to repair all 50 sills at no cost; the offer was rejected because it was judged to be a temporary fix and not a viable long-term solution. She pointed out that the design as proposed included the installation of anchors through the mortar, which could compromise the mortar. In addition, the design did not include the installation of weep holes as indicated in the original design.

~ ~

Mr. Gendron asked whether a lightweight structure could be used to replace the existing sills. Mr. Flanagan explained that the Board has been informed that it would be more expensive to fabricate new sills, no matter what material is used, rather than using the existing sills. Ms. Kersey advised that Dr. Hicks will be meeting with the contractor this week to continue discussion on the project.

Mr. Harding suggested that there was no downside to allowing the contractor to perform the repairs at no cost, as long as there is a possibility that this solution will work. The sills would continue to be monitored and fixed again, if problems arose.

Mr. Normandin asked whether a second opinion could have been obtained locally and less expensively. He stated that the window sills had remained in place for ten years without being anchored, which gave him confidence that the repairs as initially designed would last much longer than that. He suggested engaging the services of a local engineer for \$1,000 to \$2,000 to compare the two reports and offer a recommendation.

Mr. DeLisle stated that the first fix appears to be a feasible option, but suggested that the school department seek an opinion from its insurer as to the adequacy of the proposed repairs. He also commented that the insurer may require that an inspection/maintenance program be put in place.

Mr. Flanagan stated that safety is the number one priority, but he understands the concern with the expense. He noted that the Board is scheduled to meet with School officials again on August 27 and asked that they follow through with the recommendations offered this evening. Mr. Normandin stated that he would approach the building commissioner and an independent engineer. Mr. Walker pointed out that there is no appropriation in place to pay for the engineering review. Mr. DeLisle agreed to bring the matter up with the Advisory Board for a Reserve Fund transfer. Ms. Kersey stated that she would also invite the architect who designed the initial proposal to attend the Selectmen’s meeting on August 27. She further advised that total costs of approximately \$22,000 have been incurred on the project; \$17,000 for the inspection and report from Simpson, Gumpertz and Heger, and \$5,000 for temporary repairs on ten window sills that showed signs of displacement.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Walker moved that the Board vote to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather M. Billings, Clerk
(Prepared by K. Murphy)