

Westport Long-Term Building Committee

Committee Members Present: Bill Gifford Remote, and Mark Schmid Remote, Cindy Brown, Bob Rebello, Sean Leach, Ann Boxler, Christopher Thrasher, Manny Soares, John Perry. Tony Viveiros was not present.

Meeting Date: August 8, 2023

Location: Town Hall Meeting Room

Agenda

Mr. Hartnett stated that he was not a voting member of the committee. The meeting was posted as a hybrid meeting, Mark Schmid and Bill Gifford were participating remotely. Members identified themselves for the record.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Reorganize Committee. Chair, Vice Chair, Clerk

Motion by Ms. Brown to appoint Mark Schmid as chair of the committee, seconded by Mr. Perry. The Board voted by roll call vote 6-0, Brown aye, Thrasher aye, Soares aye, Rebello aye, Perry aye, Gifford aye. Mr. Schmid abstained.

Mr. Soares stated that he would like to be considered for vice-chair.

Motion by Ms. Brown to appoint Manny Soares as vice-chair of the committee, seconded by Mr. Thrasher. The Board voted by roll call vote 6-0, Brown aye, Thrasher aye, Mr. Schmid aye, Rebello aye, Perry aye, Gifford aye. Mr. Soares abstained.

Mr. Leach joined the meeting remotely.

Motion by Ms. Brown to appoint Christopher Thrasher as clerk of the committee, seconded by Mr. Rebello. The Board voted by roll call vote 7-0, Brown aye, Mr. Soares aye, Mr. Schmid aye, Rebello aye, Perry aye, Gifford aye, and Leach aye. Mr. Thrasher abstained.

Ms. Boxler joined the meeting

3. Approve Minutes of January 25, 2023

Motion by Ms. Brown to approve the minutes of January 25, 2023, seconded by Mr. Perry. The Board voted by roll call vote 6-0, Brown aye, Mr. Schmid aye, Rebello aye, Perry aye, Gifford aye, and Leach aye. Mr. Thrasher, Mr. Soares and Ms. Boxler abstained.

4. Review May 2, 2023 Warrant Article

Mr. Hartnett stated that this is included in the presentation as part of the update.

5. Update on project status

Mr. Hartnett presented an update on the old high school. He stated that there are a number of studies that can be found on the committee website, these include the studies completed as part of the High School feasibility study in 2016, the 2020 and 2022 reports from Utile Architects and the Appraisal from Landvest. He stated that the studies identified the existing

Westport Long-Term Building Committee

SF of the high school and the proposed municipal uses. If all the municipal uses relocated to the school they would occupy approximately 20% of the building. Mr. Soares pointed out that these were existing uses and the proposed use would be greater. Hartnett reviewed different options previously presented with cost comparisons. Costs have increased since the chart was made. The basic operating costs for FY23 were approximately \$215,000, and this did not include all of the costs incurred by the school department.

Michelle Soares was present and questioned the publication of the agenda. She also asked based on the amended motion at Town Meeting if the building could be sold. Mr. Hartnett stated that a previous Town Meeting authorized the Select Board to sell the property.

Mr. Perry stated that he has reviewed all the reports and studies and it is very complicated, there are code implications for the various options and he noted the earth quake standards would be difficult to meet.

Mr. Gifford suggested that the local building inspector should be the one to determine the code requirements and that the committee should request his opinion. Mr. Schmid requested that Mr. Hartnett check with the local building inspector.

Ms. Brown stated that Town meeting approved \$200,000 to hire a consultant to assist the committee in making a decision, the Town does not have the resources to do this type of work in house.

Mr. Thrasher suggested the committee review the specific scenarios, develop an RFP and review the different options. Information is needed before a decision can be made. Mr. Schmid suggested that the committee members put a list together of potential uses for the property. Mr. Perry stated that Newton moth balled a number of their schools and then used them later when enrollment increased. He also noted that \$200,000 does not go very far when you are paying consultants

Mr. Leach stated that the school may need the fields and if the building was sold it should be separated from the fields. Rebello would like to see the local building inspector render a decision on the school and also the state inspector.

Matt Medeiros addressed the committee and noted that the cost analysis was the based on the high cost and not the best/no cost option.

Mr. Soares stated that he would reach out to the Fall River building inspector and Mr. Schmid asked Hartnett to check with the local inspector.

Mr. Aubin, superintendent of schools was present and addressed the committee, he commented on the need for additional space, increase in enrollment and need for administrative offices.

6. Next Steps

Mr. Schmid would like the committee to meet in two weeks on August 23rd, Hartnett will check to see if the room is available and get back to the committee.

Westport Long-Term Building Committee

7. **Topics not reasonably anticipated forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting**
None

8. **Adjourn**

Motion by Mr. Rebello to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Leach. The Board voted by roll call vote 9-0, Brown aye, Mr. Soares aye, Mr. Schmid aye, Rebello aye, Perry aye, Gifford aye, Boxler aye, Thrasher aye and Leach aye.

Exhibits: High School Building Update – power point
Long Term Building Recommendation dated September 15, 2022