

3/26/24 – Minutes from Addison Town Hall Building Committee

SPECIAL MEETING- held at the Addison Community Center, joining a special Selectboard meeting.

Present: John Spencer, Levi Barrett, Chris Stackhouse, Michael Hollis, Jeff Kaufman, Roger Waterman, Peter Briggs, Steve Torrey, and Rob Hunt.

The meeting opened at 6:32, with Michael explaining the opportunity to benefit the Town Hall project by applying for Senator Peter Welch's Congressional Directed Spending Request. A necessary part of the online application is a letter of support, signed by the Selectboard. Michael read his draft of the letter aloud.

Roger suggested we spice up the letter by including the date of the Town Hall's construction.

Michael explained the application is sent to a specific committee, and emphasizing the historic significance could cause confusion or delay.

Jeff wished to remove the portion about holding Town Meeting and voting in the TH. He also expressed concern that "the optics of spending so much money on this building could backfire on us".

Roger raised the issue of the ARPA funds having a deadline for expenditure. John said the same was true for the Bruhn grant. The hope is the jacking and foundation work might be done this fall.

Roger made a motion to approve and sign the letter with the stated sections removed. It was amended to say the letter would be signed one selectman at a time. The motion was approved, 5 yes, 0 no.

Meanwhile Michael revised the letter with his phone, and asked if he could have Cheri print a hard copy for signing by the selectboard. The SB agreed.

John asked for recommendations for other people to seek letters of support from. Jeff recommended all Town committees.

We relocated to our usual room for the balance of the meeting. The minutes from 3/7, 3/19, 3/24 were approved as submitted.

Chris reported the phone conversation with Laz he had that afternoon. Laz had described the two designs he would draw for the 106 review and wanted them to reflect the committee's goals. Chris said they did.

We agreed it would be good to get clarity from Vince regarding the "earmark" NOT being a "grant in aid".

John suggested getting a new estimate, with the goal of doing jacking and foundation work this fall, so we can spend the Bruhn grant and ARPA funds in time.

Kyle from Clay point will let Chris know the timing on the Town Hall survey of contaminants. Chris will ask Andrew L'Roe about the "environmental review" status.

Michael returned with his revised letter of support, getting it signed immediately.

Levi mentioned the recent email from Jennifer regarding the 501c3 process. We agreed we'd like her continued support with that process.

A motion to adjourn was approved 3 yes, 0 no, 2 absent, at 7:20

Chris Stackhouse --clerk