

**Town of Auburn  
Board of Selectmen  
Workshop Meeting  
June 11, 2019**

**Selectmen Present:** Richard Eaton, Keith Leclair and Todd Bedard

**School Board Members Present:** Alan Villeneuve, Janice Baker, Samantha Belcourt, Barbara Carpenter and Jason Tyburski

**Also Present:** Town Administrator William Herman

The Board of Selectmen joined the School Board at the Auburn Village School Media Center for a joint meeting to discuss current activities.

The meeting convened at 7:33 PM.

**AVS Renovation and Addition Project**

On behalf of the School Board, Mr. Villeneuve reported the main activity and interest of the School Board has been the renovation and addition to the Auburn Village School. He indicated the project is approximately 40% complete and appears to be on target to have the addition open in time for the next school year in late August. Mr. Villeneuve indicated the project is a very exciting undertaking and the School Board has worked to get as much savings as possible through the process in order to address as many needs and items as possible.

He noted there have been a couple of code issues that were not anticipated, but are being worked through. He also reported the portable classrooms are scheduled to be removed on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Villeneuve noted the School District property shares a large border with Manchester Water Works property and is working through a number of crossover issues to address long standing concerns.

Beyond the school project, Mr. Villeneuve indicated the School Board is beginning its budget work for the ensuing year, and noted there will be collective bargaining negotiations commencing in the fall. He also noted that at this year's graduation at Pinkerton Academy, the salutatorian and valedictorian both were Auburn students.

Mr. Eaton inquired about the fire suppression system and his understanding that it needs to be expanded. Mr. Villeneuve noted that is a design element being worked on. He said the current system was undersized for the school at the time it was installed, but was approved by Fire Chief Marty Sullivan and the NH Fire Marshal. For the new project and building expansion, the Auburn Fire Department and the NH Fire Marshal want the school to meet current standards. As a result, the system is being re-designed to address what needs to happen. He believed the school district will be allowed two

summer construction seasons to address the issue, because it was not work that was originally anticipated for the project.

Mr. Eaton asked about his understanding the School Board needs to address drainage on the property and is looking to use the detention pond that had previously been developed. Mr. Villeneuve indicated drainage is an issue and they are in the process of design and implementation for using or improving the current detention pond as part of that effort. They have requested information from Rene LaBranche of Stantec on this item based on their prior involvement with the road plans and drainage from Eaton Hill Road in 2000.

Mr. Leclair asked about plans for athletic fields. Mr. Villeneuve reported there will be a full-size soccer field as part of this project, inclusive of sod and an irrigation system. He indicated there may be a baseball field as well, but that has not been formally determined yet. Mr. Leclair urged the School Board to find the means to include a baseball field on the property, noting soccer, softball and lacrosse will all be played on the AVS property, while baseball would be forced to travel elsewhere without a field.

Mr. Villeneuve noted there remains some issues with two-way traffic on Eaton Hill Road during time frames when it is supposed to be one-way. He asked the Selectmen to consider replacing the current signs on Hooksett Road that indicates the times when it is supposed to be one-way traffic with signs that say in large letters "Do Not Enter" and in small letter the times of day. He felt this would better educate the traveling public. Mr. Eaton expressed his support for this suggestion.

## **Town Projects**

On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, Mr. Leclair noted there were a few projects the Town was focusing on this year.

- *Renovation of Auburn Police Department*

Mr. Leclair reported the Town is in the process of designing a small addition and renovation to the police department facility to address key deficiencies that were identified in the operational review of the department conducted in 2016. He indicated the plans are expected shortly, which will allow the Town to calculate costs and determine a way forward.

- *Eddows Field Lighting*

Mr. Leclair noted within the next few months, the Town will be installing lights on the baseball and soccer fields at the Eddows Recreational Fields on Priscilla Lane. He indicated the equipment has been ordered with work expected to commence in six to eight weeks.

- *Senior Housing*

Mr. Leclair indicated the Planning Board is reviewing issues and potential ordinance proposals that would address the provision of senior housing in Auburn. He said the Planning Board's proposal would result in proposed amendments to the Town's zoning ordinance, which would be presented to the voters.

- *Potential Tax Anticipation Note Borrowing*

Mr. Leclair noted with increased payments that are obligated in the second half of the year, largely due to the payment for the school construction bond, the Town will be watching its cash flow carefully. It is anticipated the Town will need to do a short term borrowing of funds known as a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) in October or November to cover costs until property tax bills are due in December. Mr. Eaton indicated this would likely be a one-time issue as the tax rate then catches up to the new level of expenses. He said the Town would have to act quickly if needed, and Mr. Herman estimated a TAN could be achieved in a seven to 10-day period.

Mr. Villeneuve reported at this point, the School Board is anticipating turning back approximately \$400,000 from the current budget.

- *Community Meeting / Forum*

Mr. Leclair noted the Board of Selectmen was discussing the possibility of hosting a community meeting or forum at some point in September or October to provide sort of a 'State of the Town' presentation that is outside of the regular Board meeting or formal Town Meeting settings. The Board was looking at having short presentations from most Town departments as to the highlights of the year, and to be able to have conversation with residents. They thought perhaps tying it to the opening of the new AVS renovations in this time frame and offering tours to the public as part of the meeting might be a positive approach to this effort in 2019.

The School Board noted they would be planning an open house for the Auburn Village School, but they were supportive of the Selectmen's idea and were willing to work cooperatively in hosting such a meeting at the AVS. Mr. Villeneuve indicated the School Board would welcome the opportunity to participate with the Selectmen in such a meeting.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM, and the participants went on a tour of the AVS addition and renovation project.