

Hudson School District
Hudson School Board Meeting
Approved Minutes

Present:

Mr. Malcolm Price, Board Chair
Dr. Darcy Orellana, Board Vice-Chair
Ms. Diana LaMothe
Ms. Gretchen Whiting
Mr. Larry Russell, Superintendent
Ms. Karen Burnell, Business Administrator
Mr. John Pratte, Director of Facilities
Mr. James Petropulos, Principal Engineer, Hayner/Swanson, Inc.

- A. Call to Order: Chairman Malcolm Price called the meeting to order. Ms. Whiting led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. Public Input: Shawn Meuse, 834 Fox Hollow Drive. Shawn provided an update with some good news regarding the tennis courts. He read an email he sent to most of the people in the conference room. The email was an update about USTA and how they would support the Rec department and their tennis programs. There would be no cost to the town. He asked the board to consider the extra funds for the new courts. He thanked Mr. Beals who has been outstanding and aggressive to resolve all these items. He also thanked Ms. Burnell and the board. Ms. Whiting asked what 'full' support means? Full support would be all the instruction and the equipment. They would just need to use the courts and work out the schedule with the athletic director. There could be cost to some of the residents depending on the program.
- C. New Business:
1. Tennis Courts: Mr. Russell presented a memo to the board asking for additional funds to complete the tennis courts. Mr. Petropulos is here to present the land survey for the tennis courts. He went over the site plans from back in July with the location of where the 6 tennis courts are being relocated to. They discovered there were two engineering challenges which acquired additional costs. He went on to speak about those two pieces. He estimated one of the challenges could cost an additional \$20,000 - \$25,000 (moving a drain pipe). The second challenge could be anywhere from \$40,000 - \$50,000 worth of work (tree clearing, excavation work, loaming and seeding afterwards). The board had many questions for Mr. Petropulos about the new catch basin; is there another place to put the tennis courts? Ms. Burnell stated that we would start our design and application process over again if we moved the tennis courts to a different location and that would generate additional costs to redesign and reapply. Mr. Beals believes there would be additional costs if we did move the tennis courts. There are wetlands at the rear of the fields, and we know we cannot build on wetlands. The board also had questions about a memo from Ms. Burnell and about acquiring estimates about site design and costs. The first estimate without doing any of the detail work that goes with it, came in at \$55,000. It's now coming in at \$173,000. The basins need to be redone and that was missing from the original site work. John Pratte spoke about not having a plan and a lot of the companies won't give you a price without a plan, but they gave a price without site plans. That's a big increase. Is Harvey trying to lower the costs? Ms. Burnell stated they would work directly with the individual company doing the work instead of going through Harvey and that could be a 10 or 11% savings.

Dr. Orellana also asked where Alvirne's tennis team play this spring if the board doesn't approve the extra funds. All tennis matches would be played as away games, no practice courts so they would have to travel to practice. Utilize paying for transportation. Ms. Whiting asked if we approve this, will they be ready for spring sports? Mr. Beals responded 'yes'.

Dr. Orellana stated that she was incredibly disappointed that the data points weren't looked at about site improvements prior to this. Ms. Whiting was disappointed that Harvey didn't see it with the CTE plans and previous plans with the building of Hills Garrison and the Rodgers Library.

Dr. Orellana spoke about the proposed budget transfer form and how it concerns her. Ms. Burnell explained that these are funds remaining after projects have gone out to bid and came back at a cost lower than what was budgeted. Therefore, these funds are available for transfer. She also explained we are confident with taking these funds.

Dr. Orellana asked if it becomes the will of the board to approve this, is the final number on attachment 1? Ms. Burnell stated she has documents for each one of those numbers.

Mr. Price has concerns about using the end of the year money at the beginning of the school year and thinks it's going to cause an issue.

Ms. LaMothe asked if a bid comes in lower or over the budgeted amount, can Ms. Burnell present that to the board, so we can see it ahead of time? Ms. Burnell agreed to that.

Dr. Orellana asked if some of this can be done over time? Can any part be delayed? The purchase orders were cut at the end of last year, this if for the additional site work we are funding right now.

Mr. Price asked what if we were to cut some courts off? If we reduce to 5 courts, we would save approximately \$28,700; 4 courts \$57,000 savings. 6 tennis courts means all high school matches happen at the same time. Can you play high school tennis matches with 4 courts? Yes, takes longer, less participation.

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to award the tennis court replacement at Alvirne High School according to attachment #1, as is, seconded by Ms. Whiting.

Ms. Whiting thinks anything less than 5 is not recommended. The matches would go on forever.

Dr. Orellana asked what if we didn't approve this? There would be no tennis courts. We would have to renege on the contracts and the \$200,000 from last year would be surplus for this year.

Motion passes 3-1. Mr. Price voted nay.

Ms. Whiting made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Dr. Orellana. Motion passes 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Piper