

## **MINUTES**

**Seymour High School Athletic Field Committee Special Meeting Monday, May 11,  
2015 @ 7:00 p.m. Seymour Middle School Library**

**Members Present:** Sean Walsh, Tim Sadick, Paul Sponheimer, Ed Strumello, Jay Hatfield (7:14), Bill Paecht, Theresa Conroy (7:10 PM), Paul Roy (Alt.) (7:04 PM), Nicole Klarides-Ditria

**Members Not Present:** Jack Liedke

**Others Present:** Jim Galligan, Nafis & Young, Bill Aniskovich, WBA Group, Wayne Natzel, Board of Ed.

### **ITEM #1: Call meeting to order.**

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

### **ITEM #2: Pledge of Allegiance**

Everyone saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ITEM #3: Public Comment**

A Call was made for public comment.

Public comment was then closed.

### **ITEM #4: Chairperson's comments**

Chairperson had no comments today.

Chairperson's comments were then closed.

### **ITEM #5: Approve minutes from April 16, 2015 meeting.**

Motion to approve minutes from April 16, 2015 meeting.

Motion: Bill Paecht Second: Ed Strumello

Vote: 6 – Yes 0 – No

Item number five is closed.

### **ITEM#6: Review and Approve Invoices**

Nicole Klarides-Ditria received the invoice from Mr. Galligan today and sent them to the committee. There is a balance due of \$7,500.00, Invoice Number 137-15.

A Motion was made to approve the as presented and have it paid.

Motion: Bill Paecht Second: Paul Sponheimer

Motion: Yes-6 No-0

Item number six was then closed.

**ITEM#7: Review contractor bid proposals with engineer**

Summary of the bids were handed out. There were three bidders: Earthworks Excavating and Landscaping of Oxford, Guerrera Construction of Oxford, and H.I. Stone of Southbury.

Three bids were received for the Seymour High School Athletic Complex.

The first bid was by Earthworks Excavating and Landscaping, Inc. of Oxford, Connecticut, in the amount of \$741,723.00.

The second bid received was from Guerrera Construction Company of Oxford, Connecticut, in the amount of \$833,861.00.

The third bid received was from H.I. Stone & Son of Southbury, Connecticut, in the amount of \$955,000.00

Mr. Galligan stated that Earthworks' numbers seem fine. They have bid bond in place and they recommend the base bid to Earthworks out of Oxford. There are several bid alternate items that are still left to be analyzed and they are not ready to make recommendation at this point on them. Mr. Galligan stated the bleachers would be done next, just before the committees next meeting. At that point they will be able to make recommendations on other items to be bid on.

Earthworks did not submit names bid for the turf so Mr. Galligan recommends at this point for the committee to direct them to rebid the turf.

Sean Walsh and Mr. Sponheimer asked why Earthworks could not be thrown out as a bid if they didn't supply turf bids and Mr. Galligan stated it was because it is a base bid and not an alternate.

Mr. Sponheimer stated that the committee was told numerous times by Mr. Galligan that the committee would be able to select the turf that they wanted. Mr. Galligan responded that he couldn't speak to why Earthworks did not include turf in their bid. Mr. Walsh stated that he was under the impression that the bid would be for Field Turf with the others as alternates. Mr. Galligan responded that was not his understanding of it, not what he did, and not what he recommends. He specifically recommended not doing that. Mr. Galligan stated that if you put Field Turf in as the base bid and then name the others and the other bidders are less expensive, you then have to go to the State of Connecticut and explain the change in cost and there is the potential the state can come back and say the committee could have Field Turf but they would have to pay the extra \$50,000.00 themselves. Mr. Galligan did not want to put the committee in that position. He believes this was the best way to handle the situation. If he put the project out to bid as a separate item then Field Turf has to bid the project as the others did. There is also the chance the others could come in less. He felt that this would at least give the committee a chance to select Field Turf if Field Turf came in at the lower price. This was

the course of action he chose in the committees best interest because the committee wanted Field Turf and wanted it to be competitive priced. This was the only way he could see that you could identify a competitive priced Field Turf.

Mr. Sponheimer stated that either Mr. Galligan or Mr. Aniskovich knew that the committee wanted the top of the line product from Field Turf but that everybody else gave a lesser quality price. He stated that Mr. Galligan's original proposal for the project with artificial turf at \$450,000.00 and that it is \$455,000.00 with the alternates and the logos. He wanted to know how much was off compared to what Mr. Galligan quoted the committee before selecting him for the project. Mr. Sponheimer argued that its known that Field Turf would cost more even if all the other companies gave their best quality product, which would not be comparable.

Mr. Galligan responded that hypothetically the put in for Field Turf and they are selected but bidders come in \$50,000.00 less, how do you explain that to the people in the town that they're now responsible for the \$50,000.00 because the committee chose Field Turf and not one of the other bidders. This is the position he is trying not to put the committee in.

Mr. Sponheimer asked what turf was bid at \$50,000.00 less. The committee asked for the Cadillac and Volkswagen prices were given. Mr. Galligan responded that bids were made by companies with what they felt best matched the specs.

Tim Sadick asked why the state is saying they cannot use latex on the track. They want the Cadillac of the track and Mr. Galligan is proposing a urethane system. Mr. Sadick stated that Old Saybrook is getting ready to install their own latex track. He stated he would have liked to have known this prior to today. Mr. Galligan stated that he would have wanted him to know this before today but the project is under a very tight schedule. Mr. Sadick argued that the committee being told they'd be able to select Field Turf was not truthful because now all of a sudden the committee cannot select it. He asked why, despite numerous conversations about selecting Field Turf, did this fact never come up and that it has nothing to do with a scheduling matter.

Nicole Klarides-Ditria asked if anyone bid without the alternates, would that disqualify them as a bid. Mr. Galligan confirmed that it would not disqualify.

Mr. Sponheimer stated that the committees charge originally had nothing to do with the track, just the turf. But that perhaps because Mr. Galligan included the track at \$220,000.00 that swayed Mr. Sponheimer to vote for Mr. Galligan because the other people didn't include the track. Now he feels the project is at a point where these bids come in, maybe the track isn't doable, but the Cadillac field, the sub surface, the bleachers, the press box, instead of the track, and be ADA compliant as they were stated by the state.

Mr. Walsh wanted to know where the committee goes from here. Mr. Galligan stated the turf would have to be rebid in four to five days. Mr. Walsh asked again if a specific could be included that would not violate it as was discussed in the past. He wants a guarantee that they don't end up with the low bid. He asked if there is a way to guarantee they get the product they want, even if it means paying a bit more money, and the bid is written so that they don't have to pick the alternate. Mr. Galligan stated that there is but that he

hasn't thought of what it is yet, but that there is. Nicole Klarides-Ditria asked if there was something more specific to Field Turf Revolution other than what Mr. Galligan put in the base bid that would be the 'not equal'. Mr. Galligan again stated that there is but that he didn't know what it was at the moment. Mr. Walsh stated that a small financial risk is worth getting the top quality product and to prevent getting stuck with an inferior product that they don't want.

Nicole Klarides-Ditria asked that if they go out to bid with the three companies and it comes back with the companies version of what they feel is Field Turf Revolution, despite no other company having anything comparable to Revolution, how could they come back and how could it be equal? If you take Field Turf and compare line by line to AstroTurf and they are not exactly the same, that's not enough to say they're not exactly the same. That's the reasonable doubt for the state.

Sean Walsh suggested that when Mr. Galligan rebids the turf, to list the specific brand's top shelf item.

Mr. Aniskovich stated that the committee was assuming the other three companies were giving prices for their Chevrolet product and not their Cadillac, but there is no way to know that. The spec that was put in the bid is the Field Turf Revolution spec and what was added was "or approved equal as required by the state" and he added three other companies. So he thinks we have to assume that the other three gave a comparable product price. Mr. Galligan stated that the committee has a funding agency and the public to answer to and that he has to answer to them as well.

Mr. Walsh confirmed that if we bid the site work, it would not impede the progress because the turf wouldn't be needed a couple months down the road anyway.

Nicole Klarides-Ditria asked when the bid would have to be approved by the state. Mr. Galligan stated that once the Board of Selectmen approves it, he would present it to them.

Mr. Walsh asked Mr. Galligan if he was confident in all three companies. Mr. Galligan replied that all three companies could do the job. Mr. Walsh asked if he was confident that Earthworks was the best. Mr. Galligan replied that they were the lowest.

Ed Strumello wanted to make sure that he understands that if the committee goes with Earthworks, who did not bid the turf, there is a possibility the turf could be purchased lower priced by bidding separately. Mr. Galligan stated that was a possibility.

Mr. Strumello wanted to follow up with Mr. Natzel because he doesn't want surprises like he got at the last board meeting. He heard the committee would not be backed up time wise for breaking ground. At the last board meeting he heard from the Superintendent that there was a chance graduation would be held on the field. Mr. Strumello was caught off guard by this because he is on the Turf Committee and didn't know this. He wants to make sure that ground will be broken before graduation. Mr. Galligan stated that is his goal. Mr. Strumello asked Mr. Natzel to relay that message accurately to the central office.

Mr. Galligan would like to have the Field Turf bid and advertised before the committee's next meeting. Bleachers are advertised and are being opened before the next meeting on May 21. At that time, he can then tell the committee if the funds will be available to do the alternates. That is his goal for next meeting.

Nicole Klarides-Ditria asked if the committee and Board of Selectmen approved the base bid that evening, when would Mr. Galligan anticipate Earthworks breaking ground. Mr. Galligan did not have that answer. He does not want to issue a Notice of Award until Dave Stiger says so. If everything goes according to plan, he anticipates by June 1st.

#### **ITEM#8 Make recommendation on contractor to Board of Selectmen**

A Motion to Accept Earthworks Excavating and Landscaping, Inc. bid at \$741,723.00.

Motion: Sean Walsh, Second: Paul Sponheimer

Motion: Vote 7- Yes 0-No 1- Abstain

A Motion to seat Paul Roy as an alternate.

Motion: Bill Paecht, Second: Sean Walsh

Motion Vote 8- Yes 0-No

Item number seven was then closed.

#### **ITEM#9 Committee Member Comments**

Paul Roy: No comment

Bill Paecht: No comment

Jay Hatfield: No comment

Paul Sponheimer: Questioned how a goal post was an alternate. He wanted to know the size of the logo. Questioned if AstroTurf was ever bid.

Ed Strumello: No comment

Tim Sadick: No comment

Sean Walsh: Questioned the rubber flex curb sitting on stone.

Nicole Klarides-Ditria: There have been a lot of obstacles going through this and wants to thank everybody for everything they've done and the thousands of phone calls back and forth trying to get this project done. Moving forward, get the bid out for the turf and continue to stay on track.

Theresa Conroy: No comment

Item nine was then closed.

#### **ITEM #9: Adjournment**

**A Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.**

Motion: Jay Hatfield Second: Sean Walsh Vote: 9-Yes 0 No

Respectfully Submitted, Angela Chernesky