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MINUTES

**Seymour High School Athletic Field Committee Special Meeting
Thursday November 10, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m. Seymour Middle School Library**

Members Present: Sean Walsh, Tim Sadick (7:05), Nicole Klarides-Ditria, Jay Hatfield, Paul Roy (7:06), Jamie Yakushewich, Ed Strumello, Jack Liedke (7:08)

Members Not Present: Theresa Conroy

Others Present: Jim Galligan, Nafis & Young, Rick Belden, Asst. Superintendent of Schools

ITEM #1: Call meeting to order.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

ITEM #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #3: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

ITEM #4: Chairperson's comments

Chairperson's thanked everyone for coming. The committee will go through the punch list. Invoices are coming in that need to be paid. There may be one or two more meetings left for the committee.

ITEM #5: Approve minutes from October 13, 2015 special meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from October 13, 2015 special meeting.

Motion: Sean Walsh. Second: Jay Hatfield.

Vote: 5= Yes, 0=No

ITEM#6: Review and approve invoices from project engineer

First invoice is for Field Turf. The work is 100% complete. This will be final payment minus the retainage.

Retainage is five percent. This amount is allowed to be kept for up to one year. Sometimes committees will reduce that from five percent to three percent, and sometimes they do not. The committee decided to hold the retainer for a year.

Sean Walsh brought up a few issues that he heard from the soccer coach. As the coach walks the field he keeps finding divots. Mr. Galligan said that until it is groomed a couple

times it would be hard to tell. If the divots were still there after it has been groomed a couple times then there would be a problem.

Sean Walsh also noticed around the goal posts there is a square section that looks raised up. Mr. Galligan said that is the cover to the goal post frame. He doesn't think it is supposed to be raised, and the field turf material is also not secured.

The Gmax test was done. They tested ten places. 9 of the 10 were below 150. One was 117. When the Gmax is tested next year if that area is still an issue he recommends taking it up with Field Turf. Mr. Galligan recommends having the testing done every year so in the event someone gets hurt, the testing would be in place to show due diligence to make sure field conditions were proper.

Mr. Strumello mentioned his disappointment that at the last Board meeting, Field Turf did not have the professional courtesy to let the selectmen know that they cancelled. People were expecting training and no one was notified of the cancellation. He feels it is unacceptable and needs to be fixed.

Jay Hatfield echoed Mr. Strumello's comments that there was concern about the no-show. He asked what the status of the training was. Mr. Galligan stated it was the upcoming Thursday.

Mr. Strumello stated that there are feelings amongst the board members that there should be one person designated to be responsible for maintaining the field. He asked if that was a feasible idea. Sean Walsh stated that multiple people would be trained. Nicole Klarides-Ditria stated it will be maintained just as the field before. Mr. Belden stated that generally there is one crew that maintains on a regular basis. Nicole Klarides-Ditria stated that the concern of the board member was taken under advisement and the committee will be proceeding as it did with the grass fields.

Jay Hatfield stated a concern that the principal of the high school came to them and stated that graduation will be held on the new field. The principal contacted Field Turf on his own and received flyers about Field Turf Armor and how to protect the turf. The principal received an email reply from Field Turf in answer to his question that stated that the responsibility of the turf remains on the owner for any mishaps or damages that might occur, but not breach of warranty exists with the staging of events. Jay Hatfield's concern is that the principal is looking into alternatives to hold graduation on the field. He does not like the staging because it is ugly. Mr. Hatfield wants to make sure the committee's contract and warranty covers all these types of instances.

Nicole Klarides-Ditria asked if the Board of Ed buys something to protect the field, does it have to be Field Turf's product as to not void the warranty.

Mr. Belden stated that Wayne is looking into surveying other fields that have turf fields and how they handle graduation. Preliminarily they've found that some schools do nothing, other schools use plywood. He will find out what the various options are and then will coordinate with town council to make sure the right product is used and also protect the warranty in place. No decisions will be made until all that information is collected. He will keep everyone informed as it comes in.

A motion was made to pay Application for Payment #2 from Field Turf USA in the amount of \$450, 434.87 to Field Turf USA.

Motion: Jack Liedke, Second: Jamie Yakushewich
Vote: 8- Yes, 0- No

Next invoice was from Dalton Track and Tennis. It is not the full payment. It is for \$125,875.00 of their \$140,000.00. There are some outstanding items that require a meeting on the field with them before the final payment will be released. There are items on the punch list that need to be addressed. Mr. Galligan is recommending payment of \$125,875.00.

Jay Hatfield made a motion for payment to Dalton Track and Tennis in the amount of \$125,875.00. The motion was seconded by Jack Liedke.

Sean Walsh asked about the outstanding issues Mr. Galligan referenced. First issue is that the synthetic track does not overlap the rubber curb. Mr. Galligan had a discussion with Todd before work started, explaining to him what the plan called for. They did not do it that way. He is currently having discussions with him to make sure the material does overlap the rubber curb. Nicole Klarides-Ditria asked what Todd said regarding this issue. Mr. Galligan stated that Todd feels that is not how he bid it and they had an argument. Sean Walsh stated it's not just the track he didn't overlap. He also didn't overlap the product on the pits, or the runways.

Nicole Klarides-Ditria feels that giving Dalton Track and Tennis \$125,875.00 of the \$140,000.00 is too much for the work that needs to be fixed. She feels the committee should be holding at least half of it. Nicole Klarides- Ditria asked the committee what their thoughts were. Mr. Belden mentioned the performance bond, although the town attorney would have to get involved. Nicole Klarides-Ditria is concerned that Todd has not been very cooperative regarding this issue.

Jay Hatfield rescinded his motion for payment to Dalton Track and Tennis. Jack Liedke seconded the motion.

Tim Sadick suggested holding the entire check until Todd verbally agrees to take care of the issues with the track. Sean Walsh and Jamie Yakushewich agreed. Sean Walsh recommended written documentation of intent to repair or rectify, approved by the committee. At that point if the committee feels adequate effort is being made to rectify the situation, the funds will be released to a percentage that the committee feels adequate.

The next invoice is from Earthworks Excavating. There was a change order of \$5,300.00 the invoice. Nicole Klarides- Ditria stated that when the area up top was discussed someone mentioned using millings from the town and that Earthworks would put them down. Nicole Klarides-Ditria was under the impression that the town would pay for the millings and Earthworks would be taking care of the work. No one ever mentioned a price of the work he was doing. That isn't to say he wouldn't be charging but it seemed to her that it was going to be something Earthworks would do for free.

Jim Galligan stated he did call and say Earthworks would do as much as he could for around \$5,000.00. Nicole Klarides- Ditria feels that the cost was misrepresented to the committee.

Sean Walsh discussed other concerns he had. There are several welds on the handrails are not continuous welds which will fill with water over time, freeze and crack the pipe. He counted over 20 twenty improperly welded pipes on the rail by the tennis courts. He said if you take a rubber mallet to it, they would break.

Sean stated some of the railings, where the sections are slipped together, are not tight anymore. They are already pulling apart. He also wanted to confirm the gate entrance, where the pipe was sticking out of the ground, was going to be repaired.

Sean noted that both ends at the top of the bleachers are now washed out and it needs to be fixed.

The wheelchair section on the bleachers has missing asphalt where it meets the bleachers, almost 18 inches, at the very end of the row. If a wheelchair is put there, the tires of the chair will drop in the hole.

The drain holes were never cut at the far end of the field. Mr. Galligan stated that is on the track punch list.

Sean asked who was doing what with the netting by the shot put and discus. Mr. Galligan noted that was not included in the bid. If Mr. Galligan stated if he laid it out, public works would take care of it.

Sean has more concerns that he will pass along to Mr. Galligan at a later date.

A motion was made to make Payment Number 5 from Earthworks in the amount of \$154,318.00.

Motion: Sean Walsh, Second: Jamie Yakushewich
Vote: 8- Yes, 0-No

Invoice from Sports Edge for goal post pads and lettering in the amount of \$1, 090.09, invoice number 322-15.

Motion: Jamie Yakushewich, Second: Jack Liedke
Vote: 8- Yes, 0-No

ITEM#7 Discussion with Project Engineer Jim Galligan

Mr. Galligan discussed the advertising for the bid documents. He contacted the newspaper and received the exact number. The committee budgeted \$4,000.00 and the actual number came to \$3,043.84. There were seven advertisements. That increases the estimated funds available to \$3,152.50.

One of the field benches was damaged upon arrival to the school. Jamie Yakushewich was working with Blanchettes to resolve the issue. Mr. Yakushewich spoke with Ray from Blanchettes who said they would a few hundred dollars or equipment. Ray also told Jamie that if the committee wanted to pursue the issue, it would take a lot of work and time.

Nicole Klarides-Ditria spoke with Ray from Blanchettes prior to the meeting. He told her whoever inspected the bleachers called them 'dings' but the soccer coach told her the benches were actually twisted. Nicole stated that if there is anything more than a tiny ding on it, to her it should be considered damaged. She wants the damaged bench sent back and a brand new one shipped.

Rick Belden stated the typically when deliveries are made to the school, a custodian will sign for it. They do a visual inspection of the box. If there is no exterior damage to the box they will accept it. They do not open the box and inspect the materials.

Nicole Klarides- Ditria instructed Jamie Yakushewich to take a video of the bench for documentation purposes.

ITEM#8 Discussion and take possible action on punch list

Mr. Galligan noted that two bleacher seat rails were damaged and feels they need to be repaired.

Mr. Walsh asked Mr. Galligan to look at the railings at the top. To Mr. Walsh, it appears the bolts are loose or pulling out of the floor and are shaky. If they are shaky at three weeks, it's not going to get any better.

Sean Walsh also noted that in original discussions it was discussed to have the sides of the bleachers enclosed so no one can go underneath. That doesn't seem to have been the case. Mr. Galligan admitted he was also surprised. He thought the fencing came all the way down but on the shop drawings it only came down to the support beam. The manufacturer created the shop drawings which were then approved by Mr. Galligan and Mr. Aniskovich.

Mr. Walsh asked if there was anything that could be done to rectify it. Mr. Galligan stated that on the north end, once they put the fill back in the space would be very small. He will look to see if some extra fill can be placed on the other side.

Mr. Strumello asked about item number two on the punch list. Mr. Galligan stated it was above where they put the millings in. It was brought to his attention that possibly in the long term the town may want to have that area paved. Mr. Strumello also asked about the tiny patch of grass by the field house that was not paved. Mr. Belden stated that at some point the porta potties will be moved back and the entire area will need to be paved.

ITEM#9 Discussion on cost allocation for replacement of turf

Mr. Sadick discussed what the cost would be for replacement of the turf over time. He spoke with Spoony and asked him about high school usage for football and games per

year. He also included boys and girls soccer games, fall practice, pop warner, track and field, and baseball. The replacement cost for ten years from now will be approximately \$588,500.00. To be safe he recommends \$60,000.00 per year over ten years should be put away to replace the turf.

Nicole Klarides-Ditria forwarded this information to the First Selectman. He will take it under advisement, although he's already started putting money away. Tim Sadick would like to see the money in an account that could not be touched.

Tim Sadick also calculated the replacement cost per hour, which came to \$1027 per hour. He suggested renting the field to local soccer clubs at night. This gives a baseline to what could be charged to rent the field.

Mr. Belden stated it could be included in a rolling capital plan so people can see it is on the planning horizon and so future administrations can see it.

Mr. Strumello said there are policies at the board regarding outside agencies regarding fees. This would be something they'd have to add to their policy.

ITEM#10 Public comment

There was no public comment.

ITEM#11 Committee Member Comments

Jamie Yakushewich: No comment

Sean Walsh: No comment

Tim Sadick: No comment

Nicole Klarides-Ditria: There should be maybe one or two more meetings and everyone has done a great job. She can't say enough how perfect the committee was because everyone brought something very particular to help the project go through. If anyone were lost it would not have gone as 'smoothly' as it has.

Paul Roy: No comment

Ed Strumello: Discussed the issue with the visitor bleachers with Mr. Galligan. Mr. Strumello wants to know if it is because it's considered new construction and has to be brought up to code. He also stated for the public record that he feels that the Seymour Field is the best looking field compared to all the other surrounding towns field.

Sean Walsh: The section of doubled stairs on the visitor bleachers hangs off. If you stand on them they bend. Some are even off the structure. Mr. Belden confirmed they are not up to code and will be addressed as inexpensively as possible.

Jay Hatfield: Wants to know how much was spent on the visiting bleachers so far. Feels there should be more communication between the town committees. Also discussed a plan should be in place regarding the maintenance of the field so that members of the Board of Ed are put at ease.

Nicole Klarides- Ditria: The way the field was maintained when it was grass is how it will be maintained now that it is turf. The town people will be trained on it. Someone from the Board of Ed can also be trained so they know what is going on. Regarding the visiting

bleachers, Wayne spoke with Mr. Baldwin and whatever the original conversation was between them is what was to be done.

ITEM #12: Adjournment

A Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Motion: Ed Strumello Second: Jay Hatfield

Vote: 8–Yes 0 No 0–Abstain

Respectfully Submitted, Angela Chernesky

