



SELECTBOARD MEETING OF MAY 17, 2005  
Public Informational Meeting on Facilities Planning Committee's Final Report

Members Present: Shaun Bryer; Chair, Brian Kellogg, Cathy Voyer  
Steve Bousquet (arrived late)

Department Heads: Francis Taginski; TA,

Guests: Municipal Facilities Planning Committee

Chair Shaun Bryer called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM at the Morrisville Elementary Library.

**OPENING REMARKS:** Shaun addressed all attendees and gave notice as to how the meeting would be conducted and the manner in which comments would be received. It was noted that the meeting would be conducted in the same manner as a Legislative Hearing. He stated that the purpose of the meeting was to give the Facilities Committee a chance to publicly present to the Board as well as give the public a chance to express opinions concerning the location of a new Municipal building project. Shaun also indicated the meeting was not intended to be debate but to allow residence to express their views.

#### GUESTS

**Municipal Facilities Planning Committee:** Paul Griswold addressed the Board on be-half of the Facilities Committee. He read through the first 9 pages of the Final Report and expressed the opinions of the Committee as Union Carbide being the best possible option for the site of the new Town Hall. He also read through pros and cons of each site, highlighted some of the cost differences between the two sites, the number of meetings and residency of the members of the Committee in addition to recommending the Selectboard take bold action regarding the report.

**Shaun Bryer:** Addressed the attendees once again and asked the Facilities Committee Members join the audience and requested all Selectboard members take their seats up front. The meeting continued with each a representative from Town groups speaking followed by general public who signed up on the list to speak being allowed five minutes each to speak and share their thoughts on the project.

**Morristown Library/J.B. McKinley:** J.B. McKinley addressed the Board on where the Library Trustees stand on this project and stated that the Library is unanimous in their thinking that Library joint Town Hall project is most favorable, will not compromise the architectural integrity of the current Library and will work well as a joint project. He went on to further state it is time to make a decision to move forward with the joint project as it will be a better quality project

represent cost savings to the public and if the Cole property purchase is an example of public support then it appears to be the will of the people to move forward.

**Morristown Planning Commission/M.A.C.C./Kelley Rogers:** Kelley Rogers stated that both the Planning Commission and M.A.C.C. are also unanimous in thinking that the Library joint Town Hall project would be best for the community as it would enhance the vitality of the downtown village and be and keeping with and promote the recommendations of a 1999 town forum.

**L.E.D.C./Karen Temple-Lynch:** Spoke of their interest in not having the Union Carbide building being taken off the market for commercial development and the effects that could have on future economic development as well as leveraging jobs should the Union Carbide property be removed from the market.

**Lamoille County Planning Commission:** Shaun Bryer read a letter from the Commission dated 5/17/05 for the record. Letter attached.

**Lamoille Valley Chamber of Commerce:** Shaun Bryer read a letter dated 5/02/05 for the record. Letter attached.

***Shaun Bryer; Chair moved into the Public Comment portion of the meeting. All speakers were limited to five minutes each.***

**John Meyer:** Spoke as a Library Board representative on the Facilities Committee. John stated that he was the single vote for the joint Library project. He made that decision based upon the facts that were presented to him and the belief that the joint project was in the best interest of the community.

**Barbara Damon:** Expressed her opinion of being in favor of the joint Library project citing the history of the village and the Carnegie Library building enhancing that sense of history.

**Helen Anderson:** Asked the question: Will both projects be put on the ballot if brought to a town vote? Shaun's reply was: They would only be bringing one project to vote due to costs.

**Mary West:** Articulated her opposition for moving the Town Hall to the Union Carbide site. She noted that the town had before voted against the purchase of land so it did not make sense to use additional land as a possible reason for moving there. She also stated that walking to the Town Hall is more favorable within the community. She went on to say that the space allocation of the project seems to be in conflict within the report when the Committee recommended a down-sizing while at the same time encouraging the Union Carbide site because of its additional 18,000 square feet of space. In closing she indicated the joint project would prevent sprawl.

**Steve Rae:** Steve stated that his preference would be the joint Library-Town Hall project as he enjoys walking around Town to do all of his errands once he has driven in.

**Maria Ward:** Stated she does not have enough information on either of the projects. However, she wanted to voice her concerns over traffic being a major issue as well as moving Richmond

Street. Asked that the Board keep in mind lack of parking and need for future space, referencing the Police Station as needing possible future expansion space.

**Dawn Andrews:** Acknowledged her background in historic preservation. Stated she felt strongly about keeping the Town Hall in a down-town location and felt comfortable that the addition does not need to compromise the architectural integrity of the Library. She gave suggestions for solutions on the traffic issue. She also stated that she does not feel the numbers used in the Facilities Committee's Final Report are valid and the survey presented at Town meeting was biased and the results should not be considered valid.

**Judith Wrend:** Spoke on behalf of River Arts Board and M.A.C.C. she agreed that the Town Hall should remain in a down-town location and be within walking distance of other Municipal Facilities creating a worker friendly place.

**Joanne Harrison:** Expressed her feelings on the need to build the Town Hall in a space where the "Townscape" will be complimented as well as keeping with the preservation of historical buildings and felt that would be accomplished with the joint Library project.

**Buckwheat:** Cited the need for future Town space requirements that are only available at the Union Carbide site. He felt the South end of the Village needs to be developed and that the Library-Town Hall project is not a good project.

**Tina Tomlinson:** Does not feel the Committees survey was biased at all. She stated that the first Committees survey was definitely biased. Felt Union Carbide would be better because expansion will be needed in the future for Police, Fire, Rescue, etc. Also stated she did not feel the Town Hall remaining down-town was all that important since several opportunities were passed up for possible locations already. She stated the nucleus of the Village will expand in the future with or without the down-town site. She felt the justification for the additional money required for the Union Carbide site was the available land and additional space that could accommodate the Town's needs.

**Sharon Green:** Expressed her concerns with the expansion project. She mentioned storm water run off as potential problem along with parking and zoning issues. She asked the Board to take that into consideration when making their decision.

**Sondra Sanborn:** Expressed the significance of the Committee's combined number of years in the community. She felt the Southern end of the Village was going to expand to include the Union Carbide site especially given the area is already growing with the addition of the Bishop Marshall school. She went on to further state the Town needs to maintain that area with sidewalks, so access to the Union Carbide site, which is only 6/10 of one mile should not be a problem. She also reiterated the additional 4 acres of land that come with the Union Carbide and the extra space the building would allow the Town to grow and hold special events such as car shows, gun shows, etc. Sondra stated she was not in favor of the joint project citing several problems with the Library site such as impacts on the Cemetery, the architectural beauty of the Library, parking and limited space expansion capabilities.

**Patrick Miller:** Spoke on behalf of the Rescue Board and stated that they felt the Library-Town Hall project citing the recently approved renovations to the Rescue building and a reluctance to relocate Rescue to the Union Carbide site. He also stated that personally he and his wife agree that the Town Hall should remain in a down-town location.

**Monte Mason:** Expressed his views on the project. Stated he is in favor of Union Carbide project citing better handicapped accessibility and the possible use of the Union Carbide building as a public safety building housing all emergency services as well as inclusion as a emergency relocation center.

**Herman Fease:** Stated that he works with City and Town Clerks in his profession and has seen many Town Halls that have constructed joint Municipal/Public Safety buildings such as Fire Stations, Library's etc. Mr. Fease indicated he was aware that many Town Offices are not being located in the Village areas. He expressed his opinion that the Town is "romanticizing" the need for a Town Clerk space and that e-government will replace some of the space needs and the way government clerical services are delivered.

**Mary Ann Reynolds:** Stated that her opinion is that having the Town Hall join with the Library is the best option for the children of the community. She also said that she liked the idea of walking to the town Clerk's office and the availability of services in the down-town Village area.

## **ADJOURN**

***On a motion by Cathy Voyer, seconded by Brian Kellogg, the Board adjourned their meeting at 8:05 PM. Motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted and filed this 23rd day of May, 2005.

Lisa Laughlin; Administrative Assistant

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Minutes Approved

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Date