

Special Joint Meeting between
Ely City Council and Ely School Board
District #696
THURSDAY, February 26, 2009
6:00 P.M. Vertin's back dining room

Special Joint Meeting of the Ely City Council and Ely School Board was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Mayor Roger J. Skraba.

PRESENT: Council members Nikkola, Omerza, Salerno, Sheddy, Mayor Skraba (5)
ABSENT: Council members Debeltz, Zupec (2)

Also present: City Operations Director Harold Langowski, City Attorney Kelly Klun

PRESENT: School Board Members Bill Erzar, Ray Marsnik, Scott Kellerman, Paul Pengal

Also present: Supt. of Schools Don Langan

Duane Whalen, Scott Stowell (Ely Timberjay), Tom Coombe (Ely Echo)

JFK BUILDING – ITS FUTURE

Supt. of Schools Don Langan reported that he had talked to Tony Mancuso and St. Louis County Commissioner Mike Forsman as to building calendar for the summer of 2010 and it appears that St. Louis County is looking to relocate their offices the fall of 2009;

- lease through June 30th?
- A possible extension of the lease by St. Louis County for 90 days following June 30th – Supt. Langan spoke to them approximately 30 days ago

Mayor Skraba:

- looked at Ely Moose Club building and others
- Mike Forsman and Tony Mancuso want to meet with City Buildings Assessment Committee
- Supt. of Schools Langan commented that the JFK building will be torn down if tenant moves

Bill Erzar: \$60,000 for heat for JFK plus approximately 10% increase from last year.

Heidi Omerza: how is the utility bill for the JFK facility broken down.

Mayor Skraba:

- what will happen to the property if the building is torn down?

Supt. Don Langan – will become green space

The demolition of this building will cost approximately \$500,000.

Heidi Omerza: where will pre-school and Headstart relocate?

Supt. Langan/Bill Erzar: Washington and Memorial High School space may be available

Ray Marsnik: Also may use the Industrial Arts Building

Heidi Omerza: feels both pre-school and Headstart classes are necessary for the community.

Mayor Skraba: questioned as to what is a fixed cost for the facility?

Supt. Langan: very difficult to determine O & M due to single heating plant.

Mayor Skraba: Can the building stand for another two years?

Supt. Langan/Bill Erzar: current having issues with the roof.

Harold Langowski: need to push St. Louis County to stay in the JFK until the City can get a program put together – will talk with JFK tenants.

Bill Erzar: The School District looked at new heating system; would need a separate heating plant. Discusses city and school working together on JFK Facility and future joint efforts. Harold Langowski, Gordon Sheddy, Bill Erzar and Ray Marsnik, to meet on issue.

FEDERAL STIMULUS PACKAGE

Supt. Langan: no one knows for sure but there will be money under Federal Title Special Ed

They may change Federal Special Ed requirements to use at district discretion.

Bill Erzar: spoke to Dill and Bakk

Supt. Langan: It will be a complicated process.

Infrastructure money to go to governor; he will decide where money will go.

Shovel ready by 2010; need to have matching dollars.

Harold Langowski: Matching funds will be difficult.

Bill Erzar: Highway 169 matching money is not available through stimulus

Mayor Skraba: _ Money is set aside only for Highway 169

Supt. Langan: asked what City budget plan is

Mayor Skraba: Spoke about 2010 budget

- State to possibly abolish TIF
- March 10th Special Council Meeting scheduled to discuss TIF
- Bakk has said K – 12 will also see possible costs.

SCHOOL/CITY RESPONSES TO 2009-2010; 2010-2011 BUDGETS

Bill Erzar: Highway #169 needs widening; if a bus breaks down would be a very bad situation due to narrow roads.

Mayor Skraba: Ely needs to send letters of support. Tower is lobbying to see money spent south of Towewr.

Bill Erzar : Tower – Virginia, Highway 77 and many intersections were widened and improved. Other than clearing between Soudan and Ely, nothing else was done.

Supt. Langan: looking at what other schools in 8th district are doing; Hibbing is the only district with a possible project.

Bill Erzar: concerns that the governor might replace education budget with stimulus for one time stint.

Warren Nikkola: Both the City and School need to work together on possible joint efforts to save.

Supt. Langan: this is the best time in last 25 years to complete an infrastructure or building project due to stimulus, low interest rates and interested contractors.

Mayor Skraba: asked School when employee contracts are open

Supt. Langan: June 30th – bargaining will include deferred compensation; furlough and other issues

OTHER TOPICS - 0-0 contracts with no raise or no insurance change
Insurance with Cooperative and State Statute Issues discussed.

Supt. Langan: feels if people back out of the cooperative. The coop will not survive.
Cooperative has rules to say if you shop you may get the boot
Dill has bill for schools to go into PEIP and save dollars.

Bill Erzar: questioned bills introduced concerning non-ferrous bill;
Also discussed how the city and school can work together on the following issues:

- fuel and propane
- water and sewer savings
- future electric heat

Parks and Recreation Facility

Heidi Omerza: Simonich painting and trimming at recreation facility – thanked school for cooperation and work completed by shop class.

- ceiling left
- benches were given to facility

Adjournment