**TOWN OF WESTON, CT**

**Facilities Optimization Committee Meeting**

**DRAFT Minutes**

**January 19, 2022, 7:00 PM Eastern Time**

**Via Zoom**

Chairman Bertasi called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Attendance: Rick Bertasi, Rone Baldwin, Tony Pesco, Richard Wolf, Denise Harvey, Ken Edgar, Phillip Cross, Michael DelMastro, Martin Mohabeer, Lisa Wolak, Tecton Staff (Jeff Wyzsynski, Antonia Ciaverella), CES staff (Derek Bride) and members of the Public. Steve Ezzes joined the meeting at about [7:10pm].

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Edgar made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 4, 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Baldwin. The motion carried unanimously.

Election of Officers: The nomination and election of FOC officers for 2022 was deferred to a Special Meeting to be scheduled for January 26, 2022 at 5:30pm.

Discussion regarding the school and town facilities project:

*Recap BOE presentation, staff “think tank” session:*

Mr. Wyzsynski provided an update on Tecton’s 1/13/22 think tank with teacher reps from WMS and WIS on 5-8 grade configuration and visionary ideas, and its 1/18/22 think tank with teacher reps from HES and WIS on PK-1, PK-K, and/or PK-5 and the current configuration and visionary ideas. The purpose was to capture some of the learning objectives and start digging into potential options and pros and cons from the educator perspective. Tecton talked about the evolution of education as it sees it and what they are seeing in contemporary educational environments, such as progressive learning, and flexible and expandable spaces with personalization. Mr. Wyzsynski went through a summary of the feedback shown on the slides reviewed with the FOC and previously presented by Ms. Ciaverella to the BOE on 1/18/22.

Questions and discussion by the FOC ensued, including on the State’s facility requirements for PK-1 in relation to what the State requires for the upper grades (e.g. PK-1 need to be on ground floor, dedicated outdoor space if at WIS, and bigger spaces), facility requirements if just have a PK-K school, and the possibility of having grades 1-4 at WIS. Mr. Felton asked why there has not been a published study nor an interview with educators and other stakeholders on what a three school campus would look like.  Rick, Rone, and Steve weighed in saying this will be considered.

Mr. Bertasi emphasized that no decisions have been made (other than not changing the grade configuration at WHS and not shutting WIS under any scenario) and we have not shortlisted scenarios; the need to look at the cost implications of the configuration choices over the long term; optimization of the schools is the priority and once have that, will layer in the Town facilities. The discussion and development of possible solutions is over the next six weeks and then we would go to the community with those options. The discussions with the educators are to enable Tecton to have the most valuable input possible as we start to frame the conversations, and then in parallel Tecton is running the economics in the background so we know the cost parameters.

*Review of baseline costing – HES Example:*

Mr. Wyzsynski walked through the spreadsheet of 70 line items for a comprehensive capital improvement project – identifies quantities and costs, which over 0-30 year period will have to address those items. Mr. Bertasi noted that it is a more comprehensive view and a longer view than we had previously with the Silver Petrucelli report.

Questions and discussion ensued, including, among other things, about how the total cost should be viewed compared to the Silver Petrucelli number and the facilities plan that the BOE put together; the efficiencies that may be realized by packaging some of the items as opposed to doing them individually; what would we have to spend to repair and maintain HES over the lifecycle of 20-25 years; how this translates into a capital investment plan, with a series of priorities, and what is the Town’s funding capability.

Dr. Pesco noted that once we have these numbers for the 3 schools, then a first pass at prioritization can be done; although it will not be perfect, it will show where the bulk of the money needs to be spent and where and then that can be compared to any other configuration.

Any new items: Ms. Harvey made two requests, the first to have documents distributed to the FOC be accompanied by a description and the second to give the FOC notice of any public meetings at which presentations are being made so that members of the FOC who are not participating have an opportunity to attend or watch a recording.

Mr. Edgar raised a concern about having limited time and meetings to think through options if planning to present options to the public in March. Discussion ensued about having more FOC meetings; the necessity of going to the public with financial estimates associated with options; giving people time to digest the information; the type of financial information that needs to be developed and presented to the community; the ongoing meetings among the school staff about the viability of different grade configurations; the need to focus on the Town piece, including Jarvis, the Annex, Town Hall, and legal issues relating to the deed that applies to HES in order to give the Town a comprehensive view.

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Edgar made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Pesco. The motion carried unanimously.