

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

April 4, 2011

Facilities Committee Meeting

A Facilities Committee Meeting was held at City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT in the Harriet North Courtroom on April 4, 2011. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Chairman Rob Saley.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

IN ATTENDANCE:

Rob Saley, Chairman
T. Sean Maher
Eric Murillo
Mark Palmieri

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ABSENT:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dorinda Borer
Sean Maher
Toni Paine

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: Al Barbarotta – AFB
Joe Falzone - AFB

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT:

Rob Saley stated he would like to ask the gentlemen from AFB to come up and discuss the 5 Year Capital Plan, the Energy Audit and the other material we have on our agenda tonight. After that he will have public input. He is not trying to limit the public input but he would like them to explain what we are doing because I think this will minimize a lot of your questions.

Rob asked Al Barbarotta and Joe to start with the 5 Year Capital Plan. Joe also had an updated annual report that he would like to show the board tonight which includes what they have done in the first 8 months and some of the things they are focusing on.

Al said they have been looking at areas where they might be able to implement some change and hopefully with the outcome of managing better saving money is what we would like to be able to do. He thinks they have done a lot of that.

Al passed out the Annual Report to Board Members. In order to run a better operation one of the first things they did when they came to town was to create RFP's for all outside contractors that do work. West Haven had a long standing relationship with vendors that they thought needed to be challenged. They still retain a lot of these vendors through the RFP Process. We were able to get contracts in place with people like George Ellis who has been doing business in West Haven for a long time.

Some of our concerns were that work wasn't getting done at a competitive rate. He thinks we need to challenge all of our vendors every time they come to our city to do work to have them do the job better and if they can do it for less money we will have more to spend on other needed projects.

He said they have built a very good relationship with the trade's workers that work for the BOE. We are doing a lot more work in house. They have a work order system in place that is used every day by all of our employees. They distribute work orders every morning to all schools which required the purchase of a computer in each school for the head custodian or office staff in order to get work orders to the tradesmen, get work done and take the work orders out of the system. To date we have around 1,000 completed work orders. Our in house trade guys are doing a very good job.

All of our public bids went out and were opened. We have good vendors and contracts in place now. One of our guys meets them and makes sure they do the work they are paid to do and there are no extras or change orders. The whole process is clicking and working pretty smoothly. The board members were given samples of the work orders etc.

Rob Saley was at Carrigan one day and they were talking about the work order system. There was a work order that was in but there was also an ancillary request attached to that so how is that addressed? Al said the people in the building everyday takes control of the building and is responsible for the building and if a tradesman is sent there or an outside vendor they are shown what needs to get done. He expects that if an issue came up while he was there it would be fixed they wouldn't wait to put in a second work order. He would want a work order put in after the fact so we can be accountable showing how many work orders we are doing. By doing the work while you are there is the most cost effective.

He said all the information on the on call service is bid publicly and you can get it through the Finance Director's Office. They implemented a Green Cleaning Program where all of their products are green and environment friendly. We found we had some equipment that was able to scrub a hallway so we had to retrain people to use the equipment that is worth \$10,000 to \$20,000.00. The custodial staff is doing a better job with the products and machines we have. We do have some issues. We have a lot of guys out on Worker's Comp and have a lot out every single day up to 1/3rd of our workforce.

We are challenged to get our employees to come to work, do what we ask them to do, use the equipment and I think we are making progress.

Some of the major problems during the first six months were:

- A major flood at Haley due to broken pipes and we ended up rerouting all the drainage pipes in the school and finally got all the water out of the boiler room. The head custodian there happens to be one of the best custodian I have every dealt with. He takes ownership and pride in everything that he does over there.
- We changed hot water heaters at Haley and Pagels

We need to get the Mayor and City Council Members to realize that the buildings are getting older every year and the infrastructure starts to fall apart and unless you commit to capital money and repair the buildings you end up with emergencies like we had at Haley. There are a lot of things we can do from the boiler room to the roof; preventative things that can help save money down the road. We need to do a real in depth study of our buildings and our grounds and come up with a realistic capital budget that we will have every year, mostly in the summer, but throughout the year to address renovation and remodeling of the schools and preventive maintenance that we need to do to maintain our buildings.

The first RFP he talked about was for a 5 Year Capital Plan. The idea of putting out an RFP is to get independent companies to come in and give us a price to evaluate our buildings. After we do this RFP we can say here are the companies that have bid and we can sit down and interview all the companies and we will see their prices. We should get a real number for what a good study will cost us in West Haven to assess the needs in all of our buildings. We also have to consider space allocation; we always look at do we close a school, do we move kids around, and do we need to put additions on the building. The high school project is out there in a like new renovation which will address a lot of the capital needs of the high school. This will keep us in compliance so we don't lose accreditation. We were looking at a One Hundred Million plus Project initially and this has kind of stalled but we need to do something major at the high school. We probably wouldn't do the study at the high school because we already had some pretty in depth plans and recommendations as to what needs to be done. I think a like new renovation is the way we should go. In a typical renovation project in our reimbursement rate repair and replacement items are not reimbursable by the State. We want everything we do at the high school to be reimbursable by the State. If we get the like new renovation status from the high school we have a 75% reimbursable rate from the state. A further discussion ensued about the need for a needs assessment by building in order to set up a priority on safety issues, handicap code, fire code, building code etc. This RFP will be a tool and we can make a decision and see if the council will fund it and we will move forward with it at that point.

Questions

Mark Palmieri said we were on the committee regarding going green we interviewed the companies that brought in green products. The company we hired was going to have the

SOP's set up in job cards so that no matter where you went in any school this is the way we did business. Are those job cards done? Al said yes they are being printed right now. That is our goal that every building would be pretty much the same.

Sean Maher said regarding the changeover to green he said we had a substantial inventory of paper goods etc. He wanted to know if they used this entire inventory. Yes they don't throw away anything was Al's response. Sean also noticed there was a hot water heater change at the high school in Al's report. He understands that the high heat at the high school had something to do with the water heater am I wrong?

Joe Falzone had the details and worked that project. The old hot water heater basically died and the only way to keep hot water in the school was to use two auxiliary hot water heaters that they had that were heated by the boiler basically; it was a steam heated boiler. We had to run the heat at certain times during the day to keep the water hot so we had hot water at the school. This took longer than we wanted and there were some hot days there when we really shouldn't have been running the heat. The old hot water heater was one million BTU's and was running constantly whether you needed the water or not you were still running on million BTU's. We put in a 500,000 BTU unit with two auxiliary tanks so you won't be heating the water constantly. Sean said this also keeps the heat down at the high school to a tolerable level. Joe said yes absolutely. The boilers don't need to run it is a totally independent system. Sean said in the end we are also saving money. Absolutely.

Sean said the report also said we purchased 16 fan assemblies for the rink and installed them. What was the cost for this. This was back in August so we will get that for you. Sean thanked them.

Dorinda Borer said on the 5 Year Capital Plan you touch on this a little at the high school. Didn't we do a study before the decision was made to mover forward with the high school that talked about what the pricing would be to fix various aspects. Can't we use that study? Do we have to pay somebody to do that study? Al asked for the high school? Rob said he doesn't think the high school is part of the five year capital plan; we are making a big assumption obviously. Dorinda said it is on the list. Al said we probably won't do it if we move forward with the capital plan. Neil said they brought in Engineering Group to look at the needs of the high school and I can supply you with that information. Yes it was done at the high school. Dorinda said in the RFP there is an attachment that lists all of the schools. Are we asking them to look at the high school? No the high school won't need be included.

Dorinda said in the bid we are asking them to look at our sprinkler systems doesn't our fire department do that for us. No. Dorinda said the fire department doesn't evaluate our sprinklers? Al said the fire department inspects all schools and if there is a violation they give us a citation and we address that immediately. When we put a sprinkler in a building the fire department has nothing to do with the design. Every square inch of the building has to be covered so they will look to see the location; to see if there are enough in the room and more than 4 ft away from a wall and then do their inspection. We go through

the whole building each year. They require we do pressure testing. They look for leaks and rust and that sort of thing that is about the extent that they get involved. Dorinda thanked them and said it is good to know.

Cebi Waterfield asked does someone in house supervise work from an outside contractor to make sure the work done is needed and completed. Al said we determine what is needed and Joe, Mike McGrath and our tradesmen and head custodian do this very thoroughly.

Rob said we are making a big assumption that the City Council will approve a one hundred million dollar bond ordinance in the next year. If they don't what is the time frame right now if we put this RFP out in a month or two months and we don't have the high school on there and then three months later the high school isn't approved are we missing that window of opportunity to put that out to a five year capital plan. Al said the plan at the high school has different factors that are pushing the necessity to move that project forward. The most important aspect is the accreditation. If the project doesn't move forward I believe you will have national accreditation issues. If we don't move forward with the capital plan we should have a very in depth study done of the high school for all of the mechanical, electrical and plumbing and commit to whatever we are going to spend. I believe that the town is going to spend as much of their money to just do the repairs and maintenance as they would if they did the like new renovation.

Rob asked are we better off including the high school in the 5 Year Capital Plan to save a little bit of money? Al doesn't think so. He thinks we will spend more money doing the high school than the rest of the district because there is just so much that needs to be done there. If we don't do the like new renovation what do we have to do to meet accreditation then I would say the study would be very helpful. It would give us a list of items that we can pick and choose and when you add up that partial list and realize you are going to spend town money to do all of that rather than the like new project I think you will probably go back to the like new renovation.

Rob said we talked about cafeterias in some of the elementary schools a couple of meetings ago. Is this something we can include in this. Yes cafeterias are part of it. Rob asked in the elementary schools. Neil said let me clarify this. One of the things Rob is alluding to is that we have no cooking facilities in the elementary school so we would be starting from scratch we wouldn't be replacing them. Al said if you are looking at designing kitchens for elementary schools it wouldn't be in it. There were no more questions on this RFP.

Al went on to discuss the next RFP for the Rink. We are looking at all areas where the BOE spends money related to facilities; the rink, pool, stadium and say can we do a better job managing and spend less money. He is not here arguing for privatization of the rink he is looking at what we pay for our custodians and the people who we have in the rink to manage the rink. He looks at how much we spend each week as the building deteriorates as we have ventilation problems, smog problems and ice problems, and have to replace the Zamboni. We are looking at our budget and we are losing \$200 - \$250,000.00 a year

in the operation of the rink. Most rinks in the state are outsourced. They are run by private companies. What that would do just off the top of it is take away the loss. We aren't in the business to make money we are in the business to educate kids. The rink just drains the budget. We have custodians there, we are sending tradesmen there, and we are doing repairs and maintenance there all the time. We don't have a lot of staff and we have staff in the rink that is very expensive. In a rink that is run privately you may have a parent who will make \$10.00 an hour as a part time job but when we put somebody on there it is a full time employee and the cost is much higher. Asking Harry to run the rink with a restriction of using all city employees to run it is cost prohibitive and I don't think it is fair to ask Harry or anybody else to try to break even. I don't think you generate enough money. We are spending a lot of money there. This RFP is just to take a look at how much can we cut our losses? Is there a chance to pick up a little bit to pay for our students in our Pee Wee? We aren't charging enough for our rink. We don't have the flexibility to move employees around. The toughest factor to deal with at the rink is that we run it with union employees and that is cost prohibitive. We have to keep finding money to put into that rink to stay status quo. If an outside vendor were in there and didn't have to deal with city employees you would cut costs; it is that simple. He knows taking jobs away is an issue and where the people go. The superintendent looks at this all the time and maybe we can shuffle people around so people won't lose a job.

The reason I am here tonight is because we are losing substantial money in the rink and are looking to do an RFP to see if we can get a company to come in and manage the rink and not take money away from our operating budget. That is what this RFP will do. This RFP is not a commitment it is not saying we are absolutely privatizing although we would like anybody that is bidding on this to be qualified and be able to prove to us that they can run it and do the things that they say. Then we will see all of the numbers and see how they will staff it and we can ask questions. We have to protect our taxpayers and our kids that use that rink. To me that's the classes we use during the day it is the boy's and girl's hockey teams and the Pee Wee and all the kids that use it along with Parks and Rec. It needs to be run like a business and I don't think with all the rules we have we can run it like a business and cut that deficit for you and I just don't see how we can do it. Rob asked if there were any questions from the committee.

Questions

Cebi said currently you said our ice time charges and the fees that we charge are not comparative with other rinks throughout the state. Al said yes I said that and that is true. If we considered raising our prices to be comparable to those rates would that make a difference in the outcome. Al thinks our ice time would be more expensive than the rinks that are in the area and privatized. Yes you can do that but are they still going to come and rent our ice? I don't think I can answer that until I see what those numbers would be. I don't think we have done that part of it and I think the RFP will do that part of it. We are going to ask them what the ice time is going to cost. How much will it cost our Pee Wee and what will it cost our high school. We are in there to protect our kids. We would see all those numbers and if it wasn't a substantial difference we probably wouldn't make a change. If there is a substantial difference I think we need to know that. I think the rates

will be part of it. I think by owning and maintaining the skate shop and the food concession we don't generate money. We would like to see what all those numbers are. There might be some rule changes our union would consider if there was a chance we were going to outsource this. For example could I have part time people run the Zamboni? At this point the answer is no. I don't have flexibility in hours. I have to staff it when I might not staff it with as many people or full time people; those are the things we have to take a look at. Cebi is concerned that if we privatize the operation of the rink we are going to wind up paying more money to the private company to run the rink rather than if we just raised our own rates. Al said we wouldn't make the decision to do that. We will know up front and they will commit to a contract and we will make them bond their numbers. They are going to have to live by what they bid.

Dorinda said we talked about putting in the fans, compressors in the rink and in the bid we talked about the new electrical dehumidification system and a couple of other areas to reduce energy consumption by 25% yet we are budgeting an increase in electrical for next year. If we put in all these cost saving measures for efficiency why would we be budgeting an increase in our utilities. Al said because we haven't made a commitment and we don't have the money to do those things yet. We are looking not to have to do this. What we would like to see is whoever manages the rink build a capital account to pay for the Zamboni and the other things that need to be done in there.

Neil said it is about the same now because we are still paying off the interest free loan we received for another year in a half or so. Once we pay this off we will reap the savings going forward. Dave Cappetta said the costs of the improvements were amortized over three years into our electric bill. Dorinda said so the cost for putting in the energy efficient pieces was built into the expenses in that line item. OK that makes sense.

Dorinda said under revenue we have one item rink rental and as Cebi mentioned that is really what we have to look at because skate rental, food concessions, game machines that is pretty minuscule compared to the \$350,000.00 that we are budgeting. Under expenditure we have two line items that jump out at you and those are custodial maintenance and electricity. An outsourcing or consulting company can't adjust electricity right so there are only two things they can really touch and that would be custodial and the rink rental. I'm just not sure why we can't do that rink rental analysis. Why do we have to go outside. We are a hockey city and have some very talented and very smart people that can look at this. Why do we have to go to an outsider. They will be looking to make a profit so I don't know what they can do that we can't do. They want to raise the rates; we should raise the rates. They want to be creative with custodial; we should be sitting with the union and coming up with some creative measures. The union will probably lose their positions if we outsource so maybe they would be looking to come to the table for some other conversation. Al said he has a contract and the contract has two more years on it. They have work rules that are very restrictive and they are contracted and we have to deal with it. You are looking at what the reality is. Could they maybe but we are just trying to deal with the real numbers. That is Dorinda's point have we tried. This is just a high priced way for us to not have to deal with our issues. If we have problems in house we should be dealing with them in house. Have we tried to sit

down with the union have we tried to look at the rink rental analysis. What have we done internally before we go this route.

Dave Cappetta said why don't we ask Jon Capone who sits down with the rink rentals. Jon Capone was asked to come to the podium. He said Al had asked me to do a rink rental analysis with Joe with rates right now with vendors from various high schools like Notre Dame and Amity and Youth Hockey who rent from us and the fee that they are paying right now per hour is a little bit low compared to what other Youth Hockey and other high schools are paying at the other rinks. We have already informed the people that are renting right now that the rates are going to go up next year and they will be competitive with Northford, Milford and Bridgeport. When we take the hours that they rent and multiply it by what the increase would be it is not going to make up the deficit. If you were to privatize the people coming in to take over the rink can do things we can't do to make money. They won't be paying the people that work there the type of salary with the benefits of the people that are currently there. The second thing they want is to run the concession stand. We can't get into the business of a concession stand it is virtually impossible for us to run that place. Anybody who owns a rink right now would say that the #1 rental after they rent the ice is the money from the concession stand. We are charging what we feel is a competitive rate there for a rental but again we are not in the concession business we are educators.

Rob said he was under the impression that the people that worked there were not losing their jobs we would put them somewhere else. Secondly this is not a form right now to approve or disapprove of privatization of the rink it is a form to discuss putting an RFP out to compare apples to apples. Right. Jon said you have nothing to lose by listening to what they have to say.

Dorinda said it will only cost us the ad to do the RFP and we can listen to what they have to say but at the same time can't we be doing our own internal study? I want to see the rental rates per the cities of what we are charging. Jon can have that for her tomorrow. She said it would be for all of us to look at to see the whole analysis. Here are the rink rentals, here is the number of custodians there, here are how many are on worker's comp; an internal report at the same time we are putting this to RFP. If they come back with an answer on the RFP that might sound good but how do we know we couldn't do something better. I don't see any management report of what the problems are and what we have done to try and fix them before we go out to RFP.

Neil said we have spoken with the unions and they have been very receptive. This would be used as a tool to show them obviously we would sit down with them because a contract is in place. It is not something we could say we are just going to do it and take your jobs away and eliminate jobs. The hope would be to work with the union through attrition or some kind of an arrangement to protect the employees that would be the goal.

What Mark Palmieri would like to see happen through this committee is to let us go out as a committee and get the RFP and see what they have before we bring it back to the board on both these RFP's and let's do it here first and make the study. You are saying

different numbers and all those numbers get out of our hands you can't predict what your rentals are. From what I understand Mr. Capone Shelton has a state of the art rink am I correct? If we are going to jack up our price they will go to the better rink I believe. Secondly, there is a section in the RFP that states that it will make sure that the West Haven classes, whether it is the gym class, the Pee Wee's or Youth League and high school have first preference over everyone. The whole thing here is that we want to find a better way to run the rink whether they make money or break even but maybe offer more to our kids. Getting other people's thoughts and ideas on what is out there; this is what their forte is our forte is supposed to be education and not running a rink. I would like to see representatives from the rink, from the penalty box, from the Youth League give us the questions and we can incorporate it to anyone who brings us the RFP. They can't actually sit on our committee but we can include them and communicate with them to see what they are actually looking for and bring that to the table.

Rob said the Superintendent is looking to put together a committee that is all inclusive. Mark said right but just keep it here in the committee. Let's just move forward we have already postponed this for two weeks now we have to make a decision; that is the bottom line it is either yes or no. That is why I am making the motion now that I would like to move forward in this committee and get the RFP's set up. Rob asked Mark if he would wait until the end of this forum. Mark said certainly and rescinded his motion.

Dorinda said she thinks it is a great idea to bring those persons in to evaluate the RFP but why can't we bring those people to the table to do their own study? I think it is a very slippery slope to put our facilities in the hands of others. We will start to have a fire sale. I know we are educators but we are also a very big athletic city and I think we are capable of taking care of this in house. I just don't know if we really put the effort in.

Rob asked how many school districts run their own rink in the state of Connecticut. Jon Capone said he thinks we are the only one. Rob heard that over the weekend. Rob said he looked at the rink rentals from 2008 to 2009 and 2009 to 2010 and you look like you have about a \$50,000.00 increase what happened there. Jon said he sat down with Harry and we got more creative and got more tournaments and we just got more rentals. They had the Polar Bears this year and Youth Hockey etc. They are trying to get as many people through the door as they can.

David Cappetta said plus there was some back money that was owed that you collected that is counted in that revenue.

Rob said but you still lost \$240,000.00 because you had the rink running longer. Yes.

Dorinda said if we are going up on the rental fees for next year why are we projecting a decrease in the revenue for rink rentals for 2011 – 2012? Dave said this represented delinquent accounts that Jon collected. Dorinda said we don't have any delinquent accounts now. Jon said none at the moment everybody he knows has paid their bills. Rob asked if Al Barbarotta would mind giving his energy presentation to the full board because he would like to have some public input on this. Can you stick around? Al said

he would stay but he has an 8:00 PM meeting in Trumbull. Rob said he would have public input now and then Al would come on. Al said that is fine.

Public Session

Rob asked if Mark wanted to make a motion now.

Mark Palmieri made a motion to keep everything in committee but have the chairman send out the RFP for the Rink. When the applicants come to make their presentation the committee will ask questions and take their questions. Neil interjected that he is going to propose that a member from Youth Hockey actually sit on the committee and that person can be responsible for gathering questions from the other members. We can put a packet or series of questions together from everybody and ask the same set of questions to everyone who comes in to actually give a presentation. Mark said fine we will have a set of questions and then we will talk about it amongst the committee. If we are satisfied we will move forward to the board as a whole or we can drop it.

Sean Maher seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All committee members present were in favor

Motion passes

Rob asked Mr. Palmieri if that motion just included the rink. It had nothing to do with the 5 Year Capital Plan? Do we want to put that forward?

Mark Palmieri made a motion that we also include the 5 Year Capital Plan RFP and that will also stay within the committee before we move forward to the board as a whole.

Rob said there is a motion on the floor to keep the RFP for the 5 Year Capital Plan in the committee is there a second.

Eric Murillo seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All committee members present were in favor

Motion passes

Rob said he would like to have the complete board receive the energy report.

Rob Saley asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to discuss any of the things that were on the agenda tonight.

Nancy Rossi, 12 Robin Road stated there is a cost for an RFP. In fact over 15% of the budget this year in this department has gone for RFP's for the City. It doesn't mean I don't believe in RFP's I believe in correct information being given in public. It may not be coming out of the BOE budget but it is coming out of the taxpayer's wallets because it is coming out of the City side.

We created RFP's for all outside contractors. Are you telling me this wasn't done before that you weren't following the purchase ordinance as the Charter provides? We are all supposed to adhere to our purchasing ordinance which clearly states that certain contracts

for certain amounts need to go out to bid you need an RFP. I would have hoped that was already being done.

Mrs. Rossi is against privatization because she thinks it is preliminary. This should be the last resort not the first; we should look at everything else. I have asked CCM (free of charges we already pay in with our dues there) to look into rinks, stadiums, pools, everything I want to see what is out there. It is very easy to say you are going to save money but first off you are giving up control. Secondly whether we move a custodian from the rink to a school you are still paying the benefits and salaries. The idea that this is going to save all this money doesn't make sense unless the intent is really to cut jobs and that is one of my fears that I am very concerned about. Look at other towns and cities that have already privatized and I can do this through CCM. Look at their budget before and after show me this on paper. I know when the first thing was put out to bid last year I pulled all the information on whom we hired and it cost more money. She is extremely skeptical. The first thing we heard was its facilities, then the rink, then it was the cafeteria it is going around and around until it will be everyone. This is the first step to privatization that is what I see. I am all for changing the union contracts we can't afford the same benefits we did but not to just dismiss these people. Why isn't anyone checking into the Worker's Comp claims, why isn't there progressive discipline? Every union contract has progressive discipline in it. I believe the majority of the workers we have here are good workers. There are a few that spoil it for the rest and you should be correcting the part of the problem not punishing everyone.

She passed out material on one of the companies that supposedly is one of the contenders. She suggested the board take a look at the integrity of that company.

To me we are looking at doing a study to check on our facilities. I'm not against housekeeping but why say we need cooperation from the council when we haven't cut anything out of any 5 year capital plan for anyone; we have added to it. The council can add or take away things from the Mayor's budget however once that 5 year capital plan is passed if the Mayor won't bring forward a bonding ordinance we can add or delete and do whatever we would like to. It doesn't matter because it has happened we have done that we have added things to the 5 year capital plan. Her best advice to the board before doing all this voting and changing is to wait for the audit to come out. She stated the Mayor said at their meeting that the deficit went up Five Million Dollars that is doubling our deficit.

Nancy requested the engineering report outlining how much it would cost to repair the old high school. She would like a copy of that and what the price is and all of that because it is important.

Chris Grant, 785 Martin Street said there were a couple of things said tonight that didn't make any sense one is that like new renovations won't cost us anymore money. You talk about out of pocket expense if we are doing repairs and that we won't get reimbursed from the State of Connecticut. Who is the state of Connecticut and who will pay that tax the 75% free money to us? All of us are paying it. Anyone of us realizes the dire straits of

finances in this country from the federal to the state to the local levels and in our own family budgets. The good people, blue collar workers of West Haven can not afford frivolous spending and we need to look hard at where we put our dollars. The state and federal tax dollar all comes from us in the end. If we go with like new renovation where we get \$75,000 free we will be told by the State what guidelines we have to follow to renovate our building because are funding it and have certain guidelines. I look at North Haven High School and their great seventy to eighty million renovation and two years down the road one of their citizens go to their board of education meeting and say the lights are on in the school all night long. There were no light switches put on the hall lights because they weren't in the prints for the brand new school.

You can look at all the projected savings for the energy savings and the high efficiency lighting but they are all projections they are not real until you get to that next level of paying. I think we need to be very cautious in our economic situation here of how much money we put out to make a viable public school for the children of West Haven.

He spent his life at the West Haven Rink and won't be selfish and say that privatizing the management of the rink is a bad idea because I want my son to continue to use the rink. He will say there is a value to what that type of facility brings to our children. Are all the hours that are available at the rink being filled? Do we have a good scheduling practice? These are things we should look at before handing it over. That facility sits on the grounds of the high school. It would break his heart not to see that rink an integral part of the WHHS experience. These are values that are taught to our kids and they have a cost associated with it.

Dave Orio, 375 Captain Thomas Blvd, President of AFSME stated he knows everybody talks about employees in the rink. He thinks it needs to be known that during the months of April through mid September our employees are utilized in the maintenance department doing landscaping so he assumes that you can cut a good 30% off what the employees are costing the rink. Another issue to him is that you have a rink director and someone who oversees him and a company that oversees the rink and a lot of management involved. Another quick point is he knows when there is a game and he knows they have ticket takers and people stationed here and there and doesn't know what that costs. There was a time when we had an on site manager not even a rink director who made a good pay for each game. I don't know if that practice still exists but that needs to be looked at also.

Bill Norton, 99 Mohawk Drive, who is also the President of Youth Hockey thanked Neil and Jon for inviting them to be part of this process. They are the largest consumer of ice time. Their major concerns are costs; hourly costs. Will this create problems for our families and put them under a burden. Hockey is a very expensive sport and we keep great pride in keeping our rates as low as possible to make it affordable to everybody and we help out whenever we can. The second concern is the time. They use the rink from September through March and use almost every available hour from five o'clock on to 10:30 at night and from 7:00 AM on Saturday morning until 8:00 PM Saturday night and again at 8:00 AM Sunday morning until 5:30 or 6:00 PM Sunday night. It is possible

that this may be the only rink run by the BOE but there are other municipalities that run rinks several other municipalities. I'm not sure of any other rink that is used for educational purposes from October through March for skating classes and things of that nature. The rink also is used for a lot of Park Rec activities. I thank you for giving us an opportunity to be part of it and whatever does become of it I would like you to consider how the youth of West Haven uses the rink and how concerned we are about the economics that are involved.

Joe Johnston, 215 Morgan Lane said tryouts are tomorrow for Pee Wee Hockey and his son would like to be part of this. There is a lot of talk in the hockey area saying you can sign up tomorrow but how do you know the rink will still be running in September. I want to make sure if I sign my son up tomorrow that in September he will have a place to play. Neil said his son is trying out tomorrow and it will be open. Mr. Johnston said his son is in second year Pee Wee going for a position and if he makes an A Team and then later on something changes. You aren't going to be on an A Team again you will go to Milford or Shelton or whatever is left over. As long as you are saying with absolute certainty that come September that rink is going to be open and we have to make sure that what we sign up for is actually what it is. He doesn't want the board to decide tomorrow OK now the rink cost is going to be this amount of money so it goes from \$1,500 to \$2,500. Can anyone say for certain that the rink will be open in September? Rob said if you could get all of us to agree on one thing it would be a miracle and he doubts very much that the rink would be closed. We are not doing that here and I'm not doing that here and I don't think anybody else is. Rob said there was never any discussion of closing the rink. This discussion was about closing it was about making cost saving measures to keep it profitable or to privatize it or look at other alternative with our guys to see how we can work it out. I don't believe there was ever the word closing mentioned in that so he thinks he can allay his fears there.

Thomas McKeon, 23 Templeton Street is against privatization of the rink. Why should we give the improvements made to the rink (new lighting, new foil ceiling, fans etc.) all these things to another private company so they will benefit. It makes no sense to me. Why did we do all these things if we were going to privatize it out? Some of the other costs the gentleman was speaking about would still be ours. If the Zamboni breaks and is quoted at \$80,000 I can't imagine that someone is going to come in to privatize the rink and agree on paper to be responsible for it or the compressor. If the sewer plant blew up the City of West Haven would be responsible not the contractor who runs our sewer plant. I could be wrong on that but it is just a thought in my head. These are some of the issues that need to be closely looked at and it is a classroom. So are we looking at all the classrooms and the gymnasiums at Seth Haley or any gymnasium where Lacrosse is going on now at the high school? Are we breaking down the costs of what it costs to operate that gymnasium? If the gymnasium is a loser on paper do we privatize just the gymnasium? I don't understand that. If the problem goes back to the fact that the rink is under the Board of Ed when the rink was built in the late 60's it wasn't part of the Board of Ed. He thinks about 20 years ago it was moved to the Board of Ed. It was under the municipality of the City of West Haven and moved under the Board of Ed later on he thinks. Jon Capone said he doesn't believe that is true it has always been our rink from

the day it was opened it was under the Board of Education. Mr. McKeon said he may be wrong about this. He thought it was moved to the board of Ed in order to take better care of the building and now we are going in the opposite direction. Again he just wanted to voice his opinion that he is against privatization if that is what it comes to.

Jake Morelli, 84 Ranchwood Drive said his concern isn't about privatizing the rink or anything like that but doesn't know how good a long term decision that would be. Privatizing the rink seems like a quick decision to save \$250,000.00 a year. I think what a business would do is look at the whole process of what is going on here and what we need to do to save money on a yearly basis to meet our financial needs. He runs a business every day and selling part of it that is not financially worth it is not the answer when is that going to stop. Someday the government is really going to have to look at what is going on here and run things differently to make it efficient. What will you sell off next?

Rob thanked everyone for their comments and said what he would like to do is there is another public part of the board meeting which will be in ten minutes and I have to defer to my chairman. What I would like to do is have someone make a motion to adjourn the facilities committee and then we will get back to the board meeting and you will have ample time to discuss your input in two minutes; nothing is changing.

Mark Palmieri made the motion to adjourn the facilities committee meeting
Sean Maher seconded the motion
All members present were in favor.
The meeting ended at 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola
Board Secretary