

Joint Board of County Commissioners and Board of Education Committee Meeting
January 14, 2020
9:00am
Chowan County Public Safety Center
305 West Freemason Street

Minutes

A Joint committee consisting of three Chowan County Board of Commissioners and three members of the Edenton Chowan Board of Education met on Tuesday, October 29, 2019 at 9:00 am at the Chowan County Public Safety Center, 305 West Freemason St. Edenton, NC 27932.

Attendees:

County Commissioners/Staff

Chair Patti Kersey (absent)
Commissioner Ron Cummings
Commissioner Don Faircloth
Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager
Susanne Stallings, Board Clerk

Board of Education/Staff

Chairman Gene Jordan
Mr. Ricky Browder
Mr. Paul Clifton
Dr. Rob Jackson, Supt.
Sarah Hare, Board Clerk

Chairman Gene Jordan of the Board of Education and Commissioner Cummings of the County Commissioners called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

Update from Board of Education

Dr. Jackson called on Rick Ott with M.B. Khan who is the school's construction management firm.

Mr. Ott stated that he has begun meeting with the staff at the schools to discuss education for the next 15-30 years. He noted Chowan staff is up to date on modern techniques and the discussions will have them soon on the way to a footprint design. He stated that he will also have to consider how to safely lay out the construction of the school at the site where school will be ongoing. He noted the site is tight. He noted one of the discussions has been the ownership of the various parcels where the high school currently is situated. He stated it will be beneficial to clean up the ownership of these parcels noting that some are owned by the Town and County and some are owned by the school system. He stated the first design draft will be ready in the next week or so for review by the Board of Education. It was noted that once hard cost estimates are ready that will come back to the committee for further discussion.

Update from Board of Commissioners

County Manager Kevin Howard noted that the County has signed agreements with Bond Counsel and a Financial Advisor. He stated they will do various scenarios based on the estimated project amounts and projected funding sources. He stated the current debt will be reviewed as well.

He stated that Davenport the Financial Advisor will have a preliminary report ready by mid-February for the Commissioners to review.

Discussion next steps

Board Member Gene Jordan stated that it appears much progress is being made by both the County and the School Board. He asked what would be needed next by the Committee.

Mr. Howard stated that the County will need an amount and consideration of the various grant monies available for the financial advisor to review. He noted that there are \$10 million and \$15 million grants that the County and School will need to apply for this project. He stated he hoped the financial scenarios would include these grant monies. It was discussed that it would help in promoting the bond package to the public if the County and School were able to obtain these grants in advance.

Dr. Jackson stated that the award of the grant may not be known by the November ballot. He stated that he and Mr. Howard would need to talk to DPI about this and agreed this is an important step for funding the project.

Mr. Jordan asked if the school will have any additional information in the next 3-4 weeks.

Dr. Jackson stated the Schools will need to work with the Town and County on the property ownership. He stated that additional public meetings will need to be scheduled to get public input on the visioning of the design (such as community pool, performing arts building if these will be included in the project design).

Commissioner Cummings stated the County's plan is to pay off its debt by 2024 that is the payoff date. He stated this is important to share with the public also that this is when the County could issue new debt.

Mr. Howard stated the County will need to discuss agreements for the use of the facilities such as the tennis courts and softball fields.

Next Meeting

The Committee agreed to schedule the next meeting for March 9, 2020 at 9:00am.

Adjourn

Being no further business, the Chairs each declared the joint committee meeting adjourned.