

Eric Sharrin:

[inaudible 00:00:00].

Speaker 1:

Okay, we started recording.

Eric Sharrin:

All right. [inaudible 00:00:00].

Speaker 1:

Go ahead [inaudible 00:00:00].

Eric Sharrin:

[inaudible 00:00:00]. So, it is 7:08, it is Monday May 10th, [inaudible 00:00:37]. And I'd like to call this meeting to order. [inaudible 00:00:37].

Speaker 1:

Okay.

Eric Sharrin:

[inaudible 00:00:37]. The Pledge of Allegiance.

Speaker 2:

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. And to the republic, for which it stands. One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Eric Sharrin:

[inaudible 00:00:51].

Speaker 3:

[inaudible 00:00:57].

Eric Sharrin:

Yes, [inaudible 00:00:58]. Is there any public?

Speaker 1:

Not at this time.

Eric Sharrin:

Okay. [inaudible 00:01:04]. Let's start with the billing and [inaudible 00:01:09] report. See how everything was billed [inaudible 00:01:16].

Speaker 4:

So, as you guys already know, we have [inaudible 00:01:24] which is meaning at least twice a week we need to meet with members of the general public. [inaudible 00:01:32]. That's going to [inaudible 00:01:34]. So, we've been meeting with members of the general public, giving them full tours of the building [inaudible 00:01:41] having interviews and stuff [inaudible 00:01:43] of the library remote project. And we have two new trustees [inaudible 00:01:51] have been administering these tours and participating, I'd like to [inaudible 00:01:58] questions and what they found from the tours.

Speaker 5:

Well, we've had an eclectic group of people come through so far, influencers. I guess the first is Mr. Bond, James Bond. But all of us have brought somebody in. We had a particularly valuable one just last week was I don't know his last name, but Vince from Rotary, who was demonstrated a great deal of knowledge about the systems. [inaudible 00:02:42] boy he really looked at every piece of propaganda that [inaudible 00:02:47] web page. It turns out, it's an [inaudible 00:02:52] in the skies, and was friends with the original architect here, loved him and knew his work. [inaudible 00:03:04].

Speaker 5:

So, that was a particularly valuable conversation. Some real insight, some cautionary words. I'll jump on one, he said, "If you were having structural issues here, would you see cracks in the walls?" [inaudible 00:03:28]. And he did not see any evidence of that. So, on that front alone, [inaudible 00:03:36] not quite as dire in the immediate future. [inaudible 00:03:43]. We had a number of [inaudible 00:03:46] that shaded my perception and really [inaudible 00:03:51]. But I think bottom line, he would favor the course of [inaudible 00:04:02] and feeling more [inaudible 00:04:08].

Eric Sharrin:

You brought up mention of [inaudible 00:04:22].

Speaker 5:

He hadn't quite seen everything, Eric, I think he had perspective, and understood the issues that we raised. I didn't think of the idea of ... I thought that it was replace the [inaudible 00:04:59] system [inaudible 00:05:02] necessitates [inaudible 00:05:05] talked about possibly just opening up the side of the wall then using heavy fork lifts to both remove and bring in equipment. Was it his children [inaudible 00:05:23]?

Speaker 6:

[inaudible 00:05:23].

Speaker 5:

So, he's got many, many years living here, although he mostly I think at least he's a snow bird who goes north [inaudible 00:05:34] south somewhere up in [inaudible 00:05:36]. Probably a skier. I don't think the [inaudible 00:05:36] that he was-

Speaker 6:

He had no issues with the cost. The impression that I got is that he had no issues with the cost, and looking at the number of systems that [inaudible 00:06:00]. He understood that this was a bigger project, he also concurred that putting a second floor would require complete tear down since the

foundation can't support [inaudible 00:06:16]. But what he said was that if we didn't [inaudible 00:06:21] two floors, the [inaudible 00:06:24] foundation [inaudible 00:06:25] one floor and putting the HVAC equipment on the roof, and just supporting that area of the roof, that will have the HVAC equipment. So, he basically boiled it down to do you need the extra space, is what it is. And that's what's kind of at the crux of the point that he made, which I found refreshing.

Speaker 6:

And we thought as a board, even before I came on board. I think the board has addressed that question, do we need extra space to do what we want to do? And if you look at where the library is going and what it's doing, we only have three meeting rooms where people gather. And the library going forward requires more space. And any reorganization here, even if it's one floor, will require major reconstruction. So, I don't think he had any opinions of whether we should do one or two floors, because [inaudible 00:07:30] architectural [inaudible 00:07:32] based on if you were going to keep one floor, you could do that. If you needed two floors [inaudible 00:07:39]. So, that's the impression that I got. [inaudible 00:07:46].

Speaker 6:

I found it very refreshing to me every single person that came to the tours I found that we found new information that we didn't know, and things that were important to people. And I found it really refreshing, and I'm going to continue doing these tours to get people's advice, and opinions, and get them involved in the project. One thing that was a common thing is that people, almost everybody that came, were unfamiliar with the deterioration of the systems in the library, the ventilation, the heating, the air conditioning, the roofing, the foundation, the floor that the water gets moist from when it rains. So, every single person that came here said, "It looks good on the outside," so that's the consensus. And that's why [inaudible 00:08:51] we're educating and listening to the public.

Speaker 6:

The other thing that was a consensus is they were not familiar with the analysis, and the work that the board has done in the last two years of debating whether it should be one floor, or two floors, what's worth the money, what's not? They feel like it came out of nowhere, even though the library has tried to do an outreach and communicate with, that information was [inaudible 00:09:22] evidence that people did not know that so much work was done. So, I'm very happy that people are coming, maybe it's because COVID is on its way out, thank God. But I'm happy people are coming. We're a small town. I'm happy people are contributing good ideas, and I think it's wonderful.

Speaker 1:

So, just to conclude on the tours that we got [inaudible 00:10:00] been a great mix of people. We're continuing to do the tours. We have a member of [inaudible 00:10:07] Tuesdays but can schedule them for community members, as their schedules allow. It's run the gamuts, we've had people who have been adamantly opposed, we've had people who have been strongly for it. [inaudible 00:10:19], and I agree with [inaudible 00:10:23] idea in saying that we've learned something from every conversation that we've had. And I think one of the most important [inaudible 00:10:31] has been the fact that through these tours, in addition to educating our community, we've also been able to give a face to the library, and to the project. And so, that's been something that had been lacking in the past, conceivably, strongly due to COVID, and our closure, and regulations, and things like that.

Eric Sharrin:

Thank you [inaudible 00:11:04] saying that [inaudible 00:11:04] reach out to people who are [inaudible 00:11:10] may have been [inaudible 00:11:11] but also [inaudible 00:11:16] they have things we can [inaudible 00:11:18] what they're able to share with us by giving us [inaudible 00:11:26] knowledge is power [inaudible 00:11:32]. Thank you both for taking so much time [inaudible 00:11:49]. Any other ideas on [inaudible 00:11:59] something that you shared with us. Also, [inaudible 00:12:13]. I'd like to hear something [inaudible 00:12:21].

Speaker 7:

[inaudible 00:12:24].

Speaker 8:

I actually like [inaudible 00:12:26]. I think he brings up good points. I think he basically wants a smaller version, he wants a one floor option. Which [inaudible 00:12:36] we actually did consider it, and we might still consider it, we might want to scale down the size of this project. And the thing is I can't say that we're getting new information [inaudible 00:12:50] haven't considered it. I feel like we're getting the perspective from people that's important to them [inaudible 00:12:58]. So, I feel like we're doing that, and we're explaining that we've gone through these [inaudible 00:13:05] before. It's not to say that we might not alter our path, and maybe we can come up with a less cost effective option. And I think that's great to think about, because that is on people's minds. People don't want to reduce [inaudible 00:13:20] as much as possible.

Speaker 8:

And I'm a resident, and I pay taxes, so I understand their perspective. To hear it from somebody else, it's really great because that's the reason why [inaudible 00:13:37]. Nobody that we talked to ever said [inaudible 00:13:41] because in reality this is a situation where the library would not get to be open for more than two years, because of the infrastructure, and the systems that are in the building that are failing. And nobody has said, "No, I don't care, the library can just go away." Nobody has ever said that. They just want better cost-effective smarter people contributing and thinking of the best way to do this project. So in a way, that was really positive. But everybody's for the library, everybody loves the library. They don't want to see it go away, they just want us to really look at all the options, and consider everything, and weight all the options to make the best decision.

Speaker 8:

One thing that I also want to mention is that we had some congress people here that were [inaudible 00:14:33] Elijah, and even Eugenia, our director, who's a great [inaudible 00:14:40] basically saying that there is funding out there. So, not only we're eager to do this funding to offset some of this cost, however none of this funding can happen until we get the bar through. So, it has to be done in a sequence of events. And I think a lot of people are not educated to this idea. So, I don't know. Did I answer your question or no?

Eric Sharrin:

[inaudible 00:15:23] yes.

Speaker 8:

Okay.

Eric Sharrin:

[inaudible 00:15:38].

Speaker 8:

Right.

Eric Sharrin:

[inaudible 00:15:38] talking to [inaudible 00:15:38] people in the community [inaudible 00:15:41]. And the number one thing is [inaudible 00:15:41].

Speaker 8:

Yeah, of course.

Speaker 4:

Yeah, if as stated previously, the goal is to attract more and more people to come here more days of the week and the hours resume, full schedule hours resume, [inaudible 00:16:04] programming picks up where both entertainment and education, then the parking will certainly become more and more of a serious issue. So, most parking is [inaudible 00:16:18] of the structure. So, it's an important thing to be able to see [inaudible 00:16:31] just since the weekend. [inaudible 00:16:35] telling us to [inaudible 00:16:38]. These are uncertain times in some of the industries. [inaudible 00:16:47] going back to [inaudible 00:16:48]. I've been going back to the commercial real estate space [inaudible 00:16:54]. So, yes it's uncertain, but it seems to me that from what I've learned is that [inaudible 00:17:03] surveyed the public, had meetings, [inaudible 00:17:06] materials. So, I'm confident that [inaudible 00:17:10] to move forward here [inaudible 00:17:13] just make things worse.

Speaker 9:

I know it's probably very odd, but will speak on Mike Mendell's behalf. And I'm sure [inaudible 00:17:26] possible, he'd be here to speak up himself. Basically he would say that it's a lot of money for parking, and he would say people could find other ways to park. So, my point is that I'm not sure ... I agree with you in that sense, but that would be his perspective, I think. And what I would say that the plans, the two floor plan, is not just about the parking. It's about increasing our footprint for [inaudible 00:18:03] that's technology focused, that's focused on gathering and enriching programming for kids, for adults, for teens, for seniors.

Speaker 9:

It's a place, because libraries are for enrichment. And [inaudible 00:18:21] unfortunately we don't do it through books, we do it through gathering, and [inaudible 00:18:26]. It's not just about the parking. I appreciate Mike Mendell's perspective, why pay all this money for parking? It's not about parking. So this point is clear, my point is that it's not just about ... And the thing is can we do it on one floor? We could, but for the amount of money, and to not address all of the infrastructure issues, it's not worth it, in my personal opinion [crosstalk 00:18:54]-

Speaker 1:

So, just to interject for a moment, this meeting is being recorded [crosstalk 00:19:02]. Yeah, so just-

Speaker 9:

So, Michael Mendell is a resident. He's very active, he's a member of several boards. [inaudible 00:19:09] lovely fireworks show for us annually. He's also a member of the library renewal advisory committee, he's received a tour of the building. He's spoken to us brief [inaudible 00:19:21] interview with us tomorrow. So, we value all of his feedback, and insights that he shares with us, because it really helps us to [inaudible 00:19:30] communicate about a project with the general public.

Eric Sharrin:

Thank you. Okay, so anything else [inaudible 00:19:39]?

Speaker 6:

No, I don't [inaudible 00:19:49].

Eric Sharrin:

Okay.

Speaker 6:

[inaudible 00:19:49].

Eric Sharrin:

Okay, just shout it.

Speaker 6:

[inaudible 00:19:49] not really. [inaudible 00:19:52] the first one that [inaudible 00:20:01] absolutely [inaudible 00:20:03] just bringing people through that day and seeing all of the pieces of internal parts of the library [inaudible 00:20:23]. But I think it is important that you need to realize that it's not just [inaudible 00:20:39] parking as well as everything else that's going on. So the point is we're trying to address that [inaudible 00:20:39], and it's [inaudible 00:20:40] bigger and better for this town, for our children, for our seniors, for everybody who [inaudible 00:20:47] library. [inaudible 00:20:51].

Speaker 2:

[crosstalk 00:20:52]. So, [inaudible 00:20:57] today is [inaudible 00:20:59]. one story option and not [inaudible 00:21:06] doesn't address the problems that we have [inaudible 00:21:08]. I think that's important [inaudible 00:21:13] problems from [inaudible 00:21:16] library [inaudible 00:21:17]. This of course is [inaudible 00:21:23]. And I'm sure [inaudible 00:21:27] whatever air conditioning system we have [inaudible 00:21:27] it would be [inaudible 00:21:33] running water and expending energy to extract that same [inaudible 00:21:39]. So, my whole operations cost [inaudible 00:21:43].

Eric Sharrin:

Thank you, [inaudible 00:22:00]. No further discussion on [inaudible 00:22:00]. I'd like to move onto the [inaudible 00:22:05] report. [inaudible 00:22:07] alternate plans for library renewal. So, we have two items on this. One is the new building [inaudible 00:22:19], which is [inaudible 00:22:27] section

[inaudible 00:22:28]. Second thing [inaudible 00:22:30]. So, for the new building on Central Avenue, and I want to mention [inaudible 00:22:39] should be [inaudible 00:22:48]. And then they will repurpose [inaudible 00:22:48]. So, with that said, let's have a discussion about [inaudible 00:23:14] on that [inaudible 00:23:15].

Speaker 3:

So, I think the question really is, is that there were other options for the building that were explored earlier on in the process. So we're looking at summer of 2019, there were different options that were explored. And so these options included several scaled down versions of the current plan, as well as alternate site plan building and [inaudible 00:23:46]. So, the question to you would be do those plans have [inaudible 00:23:52] is that something that at this time you want to pursue, or do you want to discuss any aspects of those plans?

Eric Sharrin:

[inaudible 00:24:04] and I see [inaudible 00:24:06]. If we were to go [inaudible 00:24:13] and make sure [inaudible 00:24:17] and support us. [inaudible 00:24:24] and stay here, we don't have the cost associated with [inaudible 00:24:49]. We don't have the cost associated with renting the space to move [inaudible 00:24:49] 20,000 square foot space [inaudible 00:24:49]. And that's approximately [inaudible 00:24:49]. The next section, [inaudible 00:24:49] and so that's [inaudible 00:24:49] rental [inaudible 00:24:49]. And so, [inaudible 00:24:49] we don't have any expenditure movement [inaudible 00:24:49] from here to there, to there, to there. And [inaudible 00:25:50]. They can't just [inaudible 00:25:58]. I think it was \$21 million, [inaudible 00:26:08].

Speaker 6:

That one's not accurate.

Eric Sharrin:

Well, [inaudible 00:26:12].

Speaker 5:

It didn't even have [inaudible 00:26:31]-

Eric Sharrin:

It had nothing.

Speaker 5:

But I'm saying it didn't have some of the costs associated. You're comparing apples and oranges.

Eric Sharrin:

It's really a rough estimate based upon [inaudible 00:26:43].

Speaker 6:

[inaudible 00:26:45] if I remember correctly, the estimate for doing what we're doing now is like 15 million at that point. So the difference even between that, and we looked at that [inaudible 00:26:53]-

Speaker 1:

I just ask that you please use the microphone because we are recording [inaudible 00:26:30] so we want to make sure [crosstalk 00:26:38].

Speaker 6:

I'm sorry. I was just going to say if you remember at that time, I believe it was around \$15 million that the cost for doing this project was, and that cost to do rent and building was bout 21 million. And we said absolutely not, it was just too much [inaudible 00:27:19]. So, that was part of the reason, and we also didn't know whether we would have to purchase that land I believe from the school district, and how that worked at that point. [inaudible 00:27:32] maybe that was a possibility, but [inaudible 00:27:34] pursue that a little bit further. It seems like a lot more goes into a project like that, and really we don't have as much time in this building, as I think that what you're saying would sense for. Because I don't think [inaudible 00:27:57] building will allow us to just be here and not move somewhere [inaudible 00:28:02] anyway. Do you know what I'm saying?

Speaker 5:

[inaudible 00:28:06] they were attending costs [inaudible 00:28:12] associated with [inaudible 00:28:16] weren't otherwise present in doing the reconstruction here [inaudible 00:28:22] that we're all going to sit here and [inaudible 00:28:24] stable in the next three years, whatever it takes [inaudible 00:28:28] that's optimistic.

Speaker 6:

Right.

Speaker 5:

There are going to be some cost into this building [inaudible 00:28:36] unpredictable [inaudible 00:28:36].

Speaker 1:

So can I just provide some context for a moment? So the question being raised is the upper portion of Central Avenue Field, which is comparably sized residential lot of approximately 0.7 acres was initially early on in the process several years ago considered as a potential site for the location of a new library. So, this had been initially considered. It had been in an informal discussion discussed with the school board president. And so now it's being discussed the merits of considering that plan once again. So, [inaudible 00:29:33] from the feedback that I've experienced personally, one of the major concerns is the cost of project. Our proposal at three-and-a-half million is a complete tear down and rebuilding of the new building. If we go to another site and build a new building, it will not cost less money, because the project that we're proposing is a complete tear down. I don't think we should waste time and money looking at other projects that are going to cost the same amount of money, if not more. I think if we are going to spend time and effort, we should look at more cost-effective solutions.

Speaker 6:

[inaudible 00:30:12].

Eric Sharrin:

[inaudible 00:30:12] by cost. [inaudible 00:30:12] 25,000 to rent [inaudible 00:30:37] square foot. So to rent the place with 25,000 square feet [inaudible 00:30:41] roughly the same area, and [inaudible 00:30:45] to do what we need to do in the space, it's a half a million dollars a year. [crosstalk 00:30:45]-

Speaker 7:

Okay, so I don't know why we're [crosstalk 00:30:55]. If you want to [crosstalk 00:31:00].

Eric Sharrin:

Let me finish talking first, and then you can talk [inaudible 00:31:06]. So, when we did discuss it [inaudible 00:31:13] math because [inaudible 00:31:13] has been looking at some places [inaudible 00:31:18]. And so, what's [inaudible 00:31:22] 25,000 square foot for a year. So, if we get [inaudible 00:31:27] half-a-million dollars [inaudible 00:31:32]. It's simple math, it's not like [inaudible 00:31:35]. It's very simple math. It's a million-and-a-half dollars [inaudible 00:31:40] us to do that for three years [inaudible 00:31:45] if the roof [inaudible 00:31:48]. It's all based upon if the roof holds. If the roof lifts up, we got to move.

Speaker 7:

[inaudible 00:31:52].

Eric Sharrin:

What?

Speaker 7:

Ventilation.

Eric Sharrin:

Ventilation's already [crosstalk 00:32:01]. The point is if we were able to stay here, [inaudible 00:32:07] on rental fees is my point. And that's just simple math. [inaudible 00:32:15] that's you don't know. And then the question is, is it worth it to spend money to just find out, do some research, see what the cost actually would be [inaudible 00:32:29] over there, see what the whole costs are, and then we can compare apples and apples instead of [inaudible 00:32:38] to an estimate based upon really nothing.

Eric Sharrin:

And trying to find out [inaudible 00:32:46] over there, and [inaudible 00:32:52] in our reports [inaudible 00:33:06] right there [inaudible 00:33:09]. It's really can we be able to do a building there [inaudible 00:33:14] without having to [inaudible 00:33:21] two million, it's the [inaudible 00:33:31] may have some expert [inaudible 00:33:31] still save money if the [inaudible 00:33:32] building there [inaudible 00:33:34] all things being equal are the same. [inaudible 00:33:41]. That's my point, it's [inaudible 00:33:46]. So, this is why [inaudible 00:33:47] because that's [inaudible 00:33:50]. That's my point. [inaudible 00:33:53] is the roof [inaudible 00:33:55] when everything [inaudible 00:33:57] spend more money because now you have [inaudible 00:34:02] looking for some place-

PART 1 OF 4 ENDS [00:34:04]

Eric Sharrin:

...have an emergency, looking for someplace, which is going to... When you're looking for anything at [inaudible 00:34:03], it always raises the price. So, immediately we have to do the research. I'm an ex cop, that's why I'm bringing it up. Because this is what we're having a discussion about is, what are our options and what we [inaudible 00:34:17]. So I'd like to really look at this one.

Eric Sharrin:

Now, with that said [crosstalk 00:34:17].

Eugenia Schatoff:

[inaudible 00:34:17] and then [crosstalk 00:34:17].

Donna Warren:

It's okay, don't you want to go first?

Speaker 10:

No, no. Let's [inaudible 00:34:17].

Donna Warren:

I'm-

Eric Sharrin:

For you [inaudible 00:34:17].

Donna Warren:

Yeah, I'm... Oh, sorry. I'm surprised that it's coming up to this point. I feel like we've had this discussion already. And we didn't even take into account... Well, the more important little things. One, the parking situation with putting a building over on that site, we don't have parking. That was one of things we brought up way back then as well. So, I mean, what would you take [inaudible 00:34:53] parking? That's going to be okay [inaudible 00:34:56].

Donna Warren:

Number two, then this building becomes [inaudible 00:35:00] over and use it for something else because it's got construction issues. So we're talking about taxes with people [crosstalk 00:35:08].

Speaker 10:

[inaudible 00:35:10] We still wondered if I could demolish this building. [crosstalk 00:35:14].

Donna Warren:

Right, right. So you're demolishing it, then [inaudible 00:35:13] back up again. So there's another pause. And I can't help thinking that it will come to moving some other sites, and I don't think we want to build to get 26 or even 20,000 books structure that we can get into. But we're probably going to be stepping back for a period [inaudible 00:35:36]. Not just to be going to put forward our programming and do things in different phase. We're not going to be able to duplicate the building that we're in. So the cost-

Speaker 10:

That's what we both said.

Donna Warren:

That's what we already said. Right, that's what we were trying to do from the beginning. So can't get out... Those numbers that you were talking about don't make sense to me, because we can't do... Or shouldn't do what you're saying. It just doesn't make sense.

Speaker 10:

That was what... Thanks. When I interrupted you before, that was my point. I don't think we'd ever talked about matching the square footage from this library in the swing space that we have to [inaudible 00:36:18] that we have to [inaudible 00:36:18] during the time of construction. That's all. And there is that risk. I don't think I can overemphasize the risk, that you acknowledge, that if this building starts falling apart in the midst of the construction of a new building, which I love the idea of having fresh, clean, new building, where we don't have to go through all of this. But if we have to stay in this building and something goes wrong in a year or two years before we're able to complete construction, we're going to be in a scramble to try to maintain any library services whatsoever.

Debra McDermott:

So, it's been a pleasure talking about the work that you have done in the last few years. And what I found is that the estimate that we have for the bond that we're proposing, includes these things for four points. Which actually includes an estimate and a budget for the rental. Am I correct?

Eugenia Schatoff:

Yes.

Debra McDermott:

So, when we're comparing apples with apples, what we're doing is, we're comparing 23 and a half million dollars. That includes us moving out. Whereas it's close to, if you look at the original estimate, which was done many years ago, it's out of date. It's probably very low. That other estimate, which was 21 million dollars for a new building on a new site, did not include any of these soft costs. So if I was living three years ago and I got that estimate, I would have to add another 9 million dollars of soft costs, that the construction management company did, in addition to the 21 million. So we'd be looking at a 30 million dollar budget for that new building in a new site. Even if we reduced the footprint of that new building on the new site, we still can't get away from the size of this project. Eric.

Eric Sharrin:

Yeah, I'm just looking for where it is. Because there are two things that I don't know with this. And I bring this up, because I'm with [inaudible 00:38:15] in this.

Debra McDermott:

Okay.

Eric Sharrin:

I will want to look at all possibilities [inaudible 00:38:19] to think outside the box and look at everything. And not shut anybody up. I was just wondering how to meet the budget. This is not only budget, this is just like live status. [inaudible 00:38:19] this stage in the game, [inaudible 00:04:58 this size. [inaudible 00:38:19] the money, but sometimes it's worth taking a look at different buildings or ideas. Money saved now could be a huge amount of money saved or lost. Because having [inaudible 00:38:32]. Once you start building the foundation of the building, then any changes become exponentially more expensive. So right now, it's a research and [inaudible 00:38:44]. We're looking at a lot of things. It happens for a while. The longer we will wait, the more expensive our costs become also. I'm taking all of this into consideration. I'm not coming into this wide-eyed or [inaudible 00:39:49] what if. I just want to crease things out, okay? Because everything is possible.

Debra McDermott:

I found it.

Eric Sharrin:

You have it?

Debra McDermott:

I've found it. I'm here for you. Please stop worrying.

Eric Sharrin:

[inaudible 00:40:05] square foot [inaudible 00:40:06].

Debra McDermott:

Yes. So, the construction company that we hired estimated that we would rent 10,000 square feet of space for two years. And in that 23 multiplied by a million plan, they estimated \$420,000 to rent us that 1,000 square feet.

Eric Sharrin:

For two years.

Debra McDermott:

For two years.

Speaker 10:

So that's half the amount of what I [crosstalk 00:40:40].

Debra McDermott:

Yes.

Eric Sharrin:

It's a quarter of [crosstalk 00:40:40].

Speaker 10:

[crosstalk 00:40:40].

Debra McDermott:

Okay, so that's what they estimated. And it's included. So this is what I like about this construction company. As they thought about things that we never thought of. Because I'm not a construction veteran. And they have \$5 million worth of soft costs, consulting fees, owner fees, testing, and inspection, interior, like equipment, all that stuff. And they also put in about two and half million dollars of contingencies, which is like, when things go wrong, into our estimate. The problem is that this new building that we got quoted for a long time ago. And I saw the actual estimate for it as well, and they actually included purchasing the land. Which could be completely something different. That's a quarter of a million. And I think that's cheap by the way. I wish somebody [inaudible 00:41:36].

Eric Sharrin:

Did they [inaudible 00:41:46] the square footage [inaudible 00:41:46].

Debra McDermott:

I don't recall the square footage, but I could look it up for you. So what I'm saying is that you have to make sure you're comparing apples to apples. However, I do agree with you and looking at things with a fresh eye. Which is great because I think we should look at how much it would cost to do a smaller square footage and to see what it would cost. You know? So I think in that sense, I agree with you. We could investigate that. In case, honestly, in case this bond doesn't go through. So I think it's worth our time. But to look at a project that's going to cost more money, I think is probably not in the best interest of our tax payers.

Eric Sharrin:

That's [inaudible 00:42:58]. Interestingly, [inaudible 00:42:59]. We don't know. Who's the [inaudible 00:43:00]? And so it's \$220,000. \$220,000 a year?

Eugenia Schatoff:

\$420,000, so...

Eric Sharrin:

Total.

Eugenia Schatoff:

Total, for 10,000 square feet until-

Eric Sharrin:

So \$420,000. [inaudible 00:43:00].

Speaker 10:

You were saying [crosstalk 00:43:01]-

Eric Sharrin:

I'm saying... Actually, 1.5. [crosstalk 00:43:01] half a million a year. I was [inaudible 00:43:06] years.

Speaker 10:

But it's not total. It's two years.

Eric Sharrin:

How many years [crosstalk 00:43:10].

Speaker 10:

Total of 400 odd thousand. So that's a third. It's less than a third.

Eric Sharrin:

How many years would we be [inaudible 00:43:16]?

Speaker 10:

Two.

Eric Sharrin:

Two. What is the [inaudible 00:43:18]?

Speaker 10:

Well, you said...

Debra McDermott:

[inaudible 00:43:21].

Speaker 10:

You can't just keep arranging the numbers to make a-

Eric Sharrin:

I'm not arranging the numbers. When we start construction, what it will be to [inaudible 00:43:29] construction [inaudible 00:43:29]. We move out 2022, we get to 2025, that's three years. And so that's why I said three years. My math is one. We move out 2023, then it's two years. [inaudible 00:43:47] and this week and we can adjust that. We can adjust that [inaudible 00:43:51] adjustable. And I understand this. You know, we have variants. It's [inaudible 00:43:55] variables when you do a project like that, and [inaudible 00:44:02].

Speaker 10:

We don't know those.

Eric Sharrin:

No, we're not sure. I'm just looking at it as a possibility. If you add the footprint [inaudible 00:44:15] it ended up over there. [inaudible 00:44:23] for parking? What do you have?

Debra McDermott:

I got it. I got it. I got it.

Eric Sharrin:

Pass.

Michael McCue:

Oh, I'm sorry. [inaudible 00:44:37].

Debra McDermott:

Okay, and our information.

Eric Sharrin:

[inaudible 00:44:44].

Debra McDermott:

Exactly. Okay. So, 2019, October 2019, the board evaluated doing the renovation here with a partial second floor, not full second floor, and we're doing a new building somewhere else. And this is an architectural estimate. A new building somewhere else would cost \$588 per square foot. Which is considerably more than what we're doing now, which is about \$300 and...

Eric Sharrin:

And eight.

Debra McDermott:

Eight, nine technically, if you round it up.

Eric Sharrin:

\$309 per square foot.

Debra McDermott:

\$9 per square point. Okay? And the new building they're estimating of 36,000 square feet. Okay? And to acquire the site would be a quarter of a million dollars. To do the landscaping will be \$200,000. Okay? And so their estimate was \$21 million. Again, did not include any of the like five to seven million dollars of soft costs that came along with our current plan. So the 21 million plus the soft costs would be way over what we've got.

Donna Warren:

Plus [inaudible 00:46:15].

Debra McDermott:

Oh yes, this is 2019.

Donna Warren:

Remember that, yeah.

Debra McDermott:

I mean, we're going to be happy to get that for that long. So, I just want to kind of let you know that I understand your quote process. I get it. I get it. However, I'm just not sure, even if it's the same amount of money, I'm not sure if it's worth the delay or if it's really going to benefit the tax payers in terms of getting the costs down or figuring out creative ways to approach this project. But I've already stated that, so.

Donna Warren:

And you know what, on one other note...

Eric Sharrin:

Send it to her. Go back.

Donna Warren:

So, on just one other note, I think, [inaudible 00:47:01] want that anyway. Because people [inaudible 00:47:01]. They like people can feel. [inaudible 00:47:01] out there, there's teams that are out there using those fields for practices and it's a beautiful open area. I would almost hate to see it, personally, [crosstalk 00:47:21] building. Absolutely, absolutely. On regular basis. And you know, I'd actually just say that I don't think the public is going to want that. They don't. To add another building to their town.

Eric Sharrin:

To take away more green space.

Donna Warren:

Yes. Take away green space that we have right [crosstalk 00:47:39]. Exactly.

Eric Sharrin:

[inaudible 00:47:40].

Donna Warren:

Right. So I just think, in more than one way, it doesn't make sense to me.

Eric Sharrin:

Got it. Okay. Which brings us to number two. [Inaudible 00:47:59]. So we have our building, local building. I can tell you... I mean, me just looking at the building, I'm looking at the building the way it's set up. I just think the square building... I don't know, the pump out in the back is just something I don't like about it. It had to be moved [inaudible 00:48:28].

Donna Warren:

Was there reason we did that?

Eugenia Schatoff:

So I can... Can I just... So regarding reducing scope... So the pricing that we already have for the plan is a year old, right? And so right now we're looking at a potential September day. At that point the numbers will be even older. We're looking at, at least a year, if it passes for architectural plans and mechanical plans to be drawn. We're looking at not breaking ground until after that. Construction last several years. Is a multi, multiyear process. And so I fully believe, given the physical conservativeness of this board that the project will need to be reduced as presented, given the fact that the numbers are already... There have been significant delays to the referendum and to the [inaudible 00:49:26].

Eugenia Schatoff:

So, I think that reducing the scope in some aspect is a given at this point. And so when discussing reducing scope, I think that it needs to be a kind of a guided discussion to see with the professionals, what potentially the best savings for us would be or whatnot. For me, I think that really given the feedback that we've received from the community, as well as the fact that this has dragged on for quite a while, I think that reducing scope is something that is an inevitability. I don't know what the extent of that is, but I wanted to make that clear to you just in terms of the numbers that we're dealing with, significant delays to the quote date and to the project start date.

Eric Sharrin:

And the interesting thing is [inaudible 00:50:27] to reduce the scope of the building, size of the building. The cost between [inaudible 00:50:33] building on late, [inaudible 00:50:36]. Exactly what is the point? So, we may still be at the same point, even if we did [inaudible 00:50:48]. We do have a contingency built in. That contingency take care of that [inaudible 00:50:56]. Inflation, [inaudible 00:50:59].

Donna Warren:

Yeah, we're probably 89% contingency at this point for the project.

Eric Sharrin:

Right, right.

Eugenia Schatoff:

So, we were clearly told by the construction managing team that every quarter that we delay is another \$500,000 to \$600,000. So at this point, it will have been almost a year.

Donna Warren:

It's a year.

Eugenia Schatoff:

Almost a year. So, reduction of scope is something I think can be accepted, if we continue with the \$23.5 million project, that it's an inevitability. However, I wouldn't venture to make suggestions as to what should be reduced, right? We can't function in that professional capacity as to say where we can potentially save money.

Eric Sharrin:

Something just seems off, though. I mean, pushed as it is, this is an 8.5%... I'd like to invest my money and get 8.5% year over year over year. Damn it. This is what we save. Every quarter is \$500,000. It's \$2 million-

Eugenia Schatoff:

Because we're not being very conservative.

Eric Sharrin:

That's \$2 million a year. Our total cost is 23.5. \$2 million divided by 23.5 is 8.5%. Can I invest that? That rate? That's fantastic. Something to me seems a little bit off. Probably, [inaudible 00:52:27] much so, so quickly. Note that everything else doesn't have that kind of an inflationary rate. That's tremendous. I'm just saying, looking at that...

Donna Warren:

I think they're talking about many industries though. You know, they're not just talking about [inaudible 00:52:44], they're talking about the union workers' rate, they're talking about how much the steel is going to cost. You're talking about everything.

Eric Sharrin:

I understand that, but 8.5? You know, I'm just putting it standard. [crosstalk 00:53:01].

Donna Warren:

But it's not as simple as you're making everything, you know.

Eric Sharrin:

That's a tremendous gain.

Eugenia Schatoff:

And remember, they're being overly conservative, which is part of their job.

Eric Sharrin:

Right, right.

Eugenia Schatoff:

Is to build in large contingencies, to overestimate inflation so that we're not in position where we run out of money or don't have it.

Eric Sharrin:

Because [inaudible 00:53:22] and I had a conversation where [inaudible 00:53:24]-

Speaker 10:

Let's give it to Warren.

Eric Sharrin:

Yeah. [inaudible 00:53:30].

Donna Warren:

What's that say?

Eric Sharrin:

Yeah, you couldn't resist.

Donna Warren:

Oh, what did I just say to you?

Eric Sharrin:

Yeah, when I was saying about that [crosstalk 00:53:37].

Donna Warren:

Oh, I was saying that it's not just the cost of the wood, but it's the cost of the seal. It's cost of the union workers, it's cost of everything. And yes, being conservative, but you're not taking into account all of the pieces of what it's going to take to build this building. So it's an estimate, but it's also [inaudible 00:53:57], but it's pieces of buildings, my point. It's not just like [inaudible 00:54:01] costs. It's the wood, it's the skill, it's the workers, it's the machinery, it's the land. You know, it's all of it. That's all.

Debra McDermott:

One of the things in one of the [inaudible 00:54:19]... One of the things that he mentioned... The first thing he mentioned is that the project [inaudible 00:54:29], they had huge increases because the costs of things already goes [inaudible 00:54:37]. They already felt this pressure. So the fact that this is... And by the way, these construction managers, in their estimate, they already budgeted for inflation. [crosstalk 00:54:49] \$5 million. So this 23.5 includes that.

Debra McDermott:

The crew's gone already because they're doing crazy foundation stuff. They're saying this is not a 23 and a half million project anymore. That was one of the first things he said. So I agree with Virginia. We need to scale it down. We need to do it more. I want to keep it as low as possible, but we won't be able to. It's been too long.

Michael McCue:

[inaudible 00:55:24] building cost. My thought is that once... And my understanding [inaudible 00:55:31] is that once a bond referendum is passed, that then opens a door to possible funding sources. Statement, library, construction money. Who knows, maybe there's an angel out there.

Debra McDermott:

[inaudible 00:21.50].

Michael McCue:

In terms of being brights or that kind of thing.

Debra McDermott:

Yes. Yeah, definitely.

Michael McCue:

So you know, there's no certainty on that front either, but there are possibly things that may offset costs [inaudible 00:56:05].

Eric Sharrin:

Thank you. And that's a very good point. We can't do anything. We can't get [inaudible 00:56:16] our estimated forecasted [inaudible 00:56:36]. And just means that we're going to be richer. You go register the name and hopefully [inaudible 00:56:47] funding [inaudible 00:56:48] library grants. We can't do any of that stuff, because right now we are somewhat handcuffed. Including that this and moving forward. I think-

Eugenia Schatoff:

I think that it would be important as well for you to discuss the fact that, including previous board meetings, that you discussed the fact that if it comes to it, where it looks like things will exceed that you are willing to reduce scope in order to stay within the budgeted amount. And that's very clearly needs to be stated. The reason we're discussing scope is because we do not want to proceed with this project, we do not want to exceed the 23.5. And that's something that you, as stewards, are committed to and therefore are willing to sacrifice scope as needed to stay within the budgeted amount.

Eric Sharrin:

Yes, and I think it actually has been mentioned during this meeting, at this point a couple of times. And even so, I'm not sure [inaudible 00:57:58] process, but when you get the bids and you haven't come back [inaudible 00:58:04] two possibilities. We can't update it, we can't get those bids until we have everybody who did the bids back and we see what they are. We can even scope down then, take a look at it. And the bids almost become, I'd say, what's we're looking for. [inaudible 00:58:28] something goes down, the bid should actually reduce at the same rate.

Eric Sharrin:

So even if they bid a project for that much less, [inaudible 00:58:42] that percentage applied to that old bids that will reduce what have to be paid [inaudible 00:58:45] same pace. [inaudible 00:58:45] at that point and you didn't [inaudible 00:200:45:56] we'd be able to [inaudible 00:59:01] so we have an idea of what's going on.

Eric Sharrin:

So yes, this is definitely [00:59:21] and absolutely, I've said, once a month we have our meetings. At the beginning of the month so we done it at least [inaudible 00:59:30]. And I told [inaudible 00:59:33] we're not going to [inaudible 00:59:35], in fact, [inaudible 00:59:35] are asking the 23.5 is because I don't want to have to come back and answer to them. Like what's happened with the school project, and they were building and they didn't have enough and they had to go through another [inaudible 00:59:37] and ask for more money. I want it done here. We're not going to [inaudible 00:59:56].

Eric Sharrin:

I think we're [inaudible 00:59:58] and just put an extra seat down, right? When you don't have to necessarily [inaudible 01:00:02] spend all that, but we [inaudible 01:00:10] we're not spending more [inaudible 01:00:17] and we have to make it so that it fits the [inaudible 01:00:26]. We're not asking for more money, it's just one time. [inaudible 01:00:31] valued more than on average. It's 187 [inaudible 01:00:36] not an expensive project for the benefit that it gives people. The pulls are services, not having to buy a book, which is [inaudible 01:00:58]. It's a library. You don't have to pay for streaming services. [inaudible 01:01:07]. I'm not sure how much that cost is, but we have [inaudible 01:01:33].

Eugenia Schatoff:

I think it's important, especially...

Eugenia Schatoff:

I think it's important to everybody, especially [inaudible 01:01:45] people at home, working. If they are looking for media spaces and every so often it's not absolutely [inaudible 01:01:51] in the same way, they could combat [inaudible 01:01:57], especially having [inaudible 01:01:58]. So it's something to consider. This [inaudible 01:02:03] so many programs or things that we don't necessarily have in our schools, in our tech program. And that's something that we want to not only continue to enhance, but to bring more and more of our children into that space, educate them. Give them something that sometimes they're not getting in school. Teachers' not able to do everything in the regular school day that the tech world is wanting to schooling them. And we can talk more about that, not just me.

Debra McDermott:

Yeah, so, if people can only [inaudible 01:02:46] tech girl, tech mom. One thing I also found appalling in the tour that we do, is that some people still have the perspective that a library is about books and videos or CDs of [inaudible 01:03:01]. But it's not the case with most libraries now. And I think by rethinking this library and really thinking about the way that libraries are working now, is very important.

Debra McDermott:

People need to understand that they're still educating people throughout their whole entire life. From when you're just a toddler learning to read, to when you're a senior learning about technology. So it's a matter of having these enrichment programs that are focused on technology. Having a technology-forward library is very important when you age.

Debra McDermott:

And that includes having technology and having good wifi where you could have an interview when your job changes, where you could have a robotics class that teaches you things that are on a much smaller level. Like only 12 kids in a class, where you really get to really build and program robots. Or when you're a senior and you're coming in and your computer is completely destroyed with all the stuff or the spam that you get, to learn what to click on and what not to click on.

Debra McDermott:

The library is basically a place that is with you your entire life, not just the 12 years you're in school, and it's an enriching environment. And the way we learn now is unfortunately not through books. So by building a library where you can have meeting spaces, whether it's one person, two people, 10 people,

20 people, 50 people, a 100 people. Having that flexibility is what libraries are all about. And that's why the square footage of the library that we're proposing is bigger.

Debra McDermott:

It's because we're kind of thinking in the future. However, if we can't afford to build it, we'll do the best that we can with the money that we're asking for. And we're going to be frugal, and we're going to get money from federal money, state money and all that stuff as Mike mentioned. But we have to kind of do it in order. We have to have the bond, though. And then we are going to have these people here who are residents of Pearl River, but fight for every dollar to make sure that the money is worthwhile spent. And that's our job.

Debra McDermott:

Every one of these people is a volunteer, except for Eugenia. They're all very dedicated, but we're volunteers. Nobody's getting paid. Nobody has any kind of stake other than wanting a better community place for our neighbors. So we're going to make sure every dollar is spent well. We're going to make sure that if we could save, we're going to save. And it's not going to be a situation where we're just going to say, "Oh, we have the money anyway, we're going to spend it." The library does not have a history of this.

Debra McDermott:

We have bonded once before 35 years ago. There are certain surprises that we found out by people visiting us during these tours, that they went over budget. And they didn't go back and ask for money, they saved on the furniture. So that's the point. We have a history of not going and asking for more money.

Debra McDermott:

We don't have a history of asking for the money every five to 10 years, but this situation is dire. This building is not going to be occupied in one to two years. So community residents need to make a decision. Do they want a library or not? And that's really the vote that people are going to be voting on, is whether they want a library or not.

Debra McDermott:

Now what we do with the library, that's basically the advisory committee and this board of trustees, and mostly there's people in the public and they want to join the advisory committee. They can, to be part of the decision process of how our library will be. And it's going to be technology forward. And it's going to be future thinking and it's going to be focused, not just on books and videos. It's going to be focused on how we learn and how we educate ourselves in the future. There's my fiery appeal.

Michael McCue:

[inaudible 01:07:36].

Eric Sharrin:

Debra, you do have a point. It's something that I've been saying every single month when we're having our meetings. When I built this... I built an extension on our house. I had to build on... We just had to put on a second floor. And I stayed exactly within the budget. Because every time [inaudible 01:07:57] about

anything that needed to be done, the first thing out of my mouth is, "How much will that cost?" I'm not just going to say, "Yes, yes, yes." What's the-

PART 2 OF 4 ENDS [01:08:04]

Speaker 11:

We're not just going to say, "Yes, yes, yes." What's the cost? How much is it? Do I need that? Is it absolutely necessary [inaudible 01:08:09]? And by doing that, I have a [inaudible 01:08:13] that was done, is was exactly as it is. It's [inaudible 01:08:22] track [inaudible 01:08:23] make sure to stay on budget. How much does that cost? Why do we need it? Is it necessary? And by doing that, we're being [inaudible 01:08:37] just improving, making sure [inaudible 01:08:41] and not just say, "Yeah, yeah, yeah." I don't want to pay more taxes [inaudible 01:08:47], but I [inaudible 01:08:51] and I want to be able to use it for the next 50-100 if possible I should live so long, but [inaudible 01:08:56]. I [inaudible 01:08:56] certainly use it [inaudible 01:08:56]. So, it's something that [inaudible 01:08:56] technology. Not just for tomorrow but between 10 years [inaudible 01:08:57].

Speaker 11:

So, I think [inaudible 01:08:57] first [inaudible 01:08:57] rebuilding on Central Avenue, and so [inaudible 01:08:57] to the plan. So I ask [inaudible 01:08:57], if not, [inaudible 01:09:00]. The next item on the agenda, that is the [inaudible 01:09:00]. So our library [inaudible 01:09:00] project, the current project.

Female:

Yeah, we've been discussing that. [crosstalk 01:09:00].

Female:

What else can we do to discuss it? [inaudible 01:09:00]

Speaker 11:

We know that [inaudible 01:09:00] talk about. We're really [inaudible 01:09:00]. So, let's go with the [inaudible 01:10:00] because I don't want to [inaudible 01:10:04] make decisions. I want to [inaudible 01:10:09]. We have a lot of people who are [inaudible 01:10:14] voluntary [inaudible 01:10:14], who are [inaudible 01:10:16], and ask some questions and give you advice. And I want to be able to take that advice and really integrate it so [inaudible 01:10:29], make them feel heard. I don't think everybody's going to [inaudible 01:10:33], and that's [inaudible 01:10:37]. Yes, you want 23 and a half million [inaudible 01:10:40] ultimately [inaudible 01:10:42] 3,000 [inaudible 01:10:48]. Let's just say that. We need [inaudible 01:10:52]. We want [inaudible 01:10:53], but ultimately, we're [inaudible 01:10:56]. It's going to built within budget. It's going to be beautiful. It's going to be something that our children [inaudible 01:11:05].

Speaker 11:

So with that said, [inaudible 01:11:11] but to keep their input. And after the discussion [inaudible 01:11:18] and if [inaudible 01:11:21] to the next, how do you proceed? So, do we stay within our budget that we have now? Absolutely 100%. Is there something that could us changing? What kind of input that they've given us that we can take and [inaudible 01:11:38]? [inaudible 01:11:38] putting in, but I guess-

Speaker 12:

So, let me summarize. The Library Renewal Advisory Committee was a committee that was formed and is continuing to solicit [inaudible 01:11:56]. So it made up of [inaudible 01:11:58] stakeholders in the community, politicians, business owners, professionals, volunteers, community theaters, the parents. Everybody who loves the [inaudible 01:12:10] and wants to have a library, which is most of the people that we speak to. And so the committee was initially formed and [inaudible 01:12:19] members, so our paper newsletter, which is going to be received in homes shortly if it hasn't been already. It's also put a call for members in the advisory committee.

Speaker 12:

And so the advisory committee, at this point, is 15 members. And all members initially fill out an email survey as to their availability, their contact information, and then the first step in the process is coming in for a tour. And so we do these tours on a weekly basis. We do them at 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM on Tuesdays. We're also available to do them by appointment based upon participants available. And so that time, as we're going through the tour, we kind of illustrate the current state of the building, and that's the beginning of the conversation. After the tour, we sit down and we have a brief recap and ask their viewpoints and thoughts about the front building. We start to discuss the project but don't go too much in depth.

Speaker 12:

The next piece of it is one-on-one interviews. So, the commitment is to have one-on-one interviews with every single member of the advisory committee to really hear all their questions, their comments, their feedback. Everything that they have to ask us about the library renewal plan. Any sort of [inaudible 01:13:46] had to invest that time one-on-one in meeting with them so that we can really get a full perspective of their viewpoint, and obviously that is annotated. At that point, we were looking at reviving our [inaudible 01:14:04] report that would pile the very [inaudible 01:14:07] participants, of what we heard, what we walked away with, what impressed them and was impressed by the most. And [inaudible 01:14:15] them to work for the entire board. We're not at that point yet. So, we're committed to the process, and it takes time to be able to be with all members at this time.

Speaker 12:

So, I can certainly share anecdotal evidence as to what occur during tours and during a few one-on-one interviews that we've held thus far, but there is no oral feedback at this point as we're still meeting with people, but it's soliciting their viewpoints.

Speaker 11:

Okay. I'd love to hear the anecdotal evidence.

Speaker 12:

So the anecdotal evidence, we haven't quite had 10 tours yet. It's [inaudible 01:15:00], as I stated previously. So, there are people who are strongly for, there are people who feel neutral, there are people who are [inaudible 01:15:08]. And so in the conversations that we're having with people, a couple of key questions that consistently come up. "Why do you need more parking? How did it get so bad? Why are you different as a board?" So, the perception is is that the building has declined to such a state, how are any of us different in dealing with this going forward? And then another question which

we got, which I found very interesting, was people who have been included to the project are like, "Why is it taking so long? Why hasn't it happened yet?" And so I would say that of the many meetings we've had as [inaudible 01:15:50] be sure to share with the public our findings. But these are kind of hard hitting questions that we're being asked that really dig into the core of what we the issues [inaudible 01:16:03].

Speaker 11:

Okay. I can answer some of those. [inaudible 01:16:08] why we are different, it's [inaudible 01:16:16] question. So [inaudible 01:16:22] family. We are rebuilding outside [inaudible 01:16:25]. The previous construction was done with people that [inaudible 01:16:31] people [inaudible 01:16:31], but [inaudible 01:16:33] sometimes [inaudible 01:16:34] because [inaudible 01:16:40] don't get funds correctly, [inaudible 01:16:42] don't get funds correctly. And plans could not be executed [inaudible 01:16:46] because it's... You say we cut corners. We're not looking to cut corners. We're looking to save money. We're not looking to do this cheaply. We're looking to do this, I'd say foolproof. I don't want to be cheap. I want to do it right. I want to get it done correctly. And I want to do it for [inaudible 01:16:54] cost, but nothing [inaudible 01:16:55] cheap. This is going structurally sound, [inaudible 01:17:11] more time once [inaudible 01:17:14] done.

Speaker 11:

So to that point, we've had [inaudible 01:17:16] people who are knowledgeable who are partial. There's a lot of [inaudible 01:17:16] and I guess it's 2D, 3D people look at this. It's nothing. There's no kickbacks. There's nothing going on [inaudible 01:17:39]. We're looking at everything to do that's... I guess in the Boy Scout way, it's about [inaudible 01:17:46] Boy Scouts. You want to be thrifty. You want to be trustworthy. You want to put all these 12 points into consideration [inaudible 01:17:57]. To me, it's a [inaudible 01:17:59] project that I'm trying to accomplish, but we're going to have professionals do it [inaudible 01:18:05]. So at one point, I think that's a little different [inaudible 01:18:09] and [inaudible 01:18:09].

Speaker 13:

[inaudible 01:18:09], I think the difference between what we're doing now as opposed to before, I think we're walking down a very [inaudible 01:18:33]. She has a lot of history and experience. We also have a board that's committed. Even though we're volunteers, we're committed to do this [inaudible 01:18:47]. Not only that, we're in a meeting [inaudible 01:18:51] in our advisory board. There are construction managers, architects, and other people, including [inaudible 01:18:59], they've just done a huge project. They have the experience [inaudible 01:19:04]. Right? So, it's not just us and not just a very professional construction management company that we're hiring. We're being transparent and we're including others that know they're talking about. I will be the first one to say, "I am not qualified to build a beautiful library." However, I'm going to ask lots of questions and I'm going to question everything that gets done, and I'm going to make sure they're going to be other people who verify the answers to those questions. [inaudible 01:19:38] 100%. All right.

Speaker 12:

I would say, as well, I would agree. And this is actually a comment that we received from a board member who actually served on the board prior to entering and post-construction of the new building which was completed in 1991. So, we had a former library trustee come to attend one of our tours and a couple of things he said. One of the things he said was that he was so impressed by us giving the tours

and having the advisory committee because he felt that when they had originally [inaudible 01:20:21] for the new building [inaudible 01:20:22], that they had not done enough outreach into the community. And so he actually commended us for the job that we were doing, that at this point we don't have a [inaudible 01:20:34] date set yet, but yet we're still on this public information campaign. And so that was something that was very different [inaudible 01:20:41] in the past and he commended us for.

Speaker 12:

The other thing that he mentioned to us was that he stated that during the building process, that they did run out of money. And so during that bonding process, the amount that they bonded for ended up being insufficient. And so in the end, there were cuts that were made to [inaudible 01:21:09] furniture and all sorts of [inaudible 01:21:12] interior decisions. Cuts were made in order to stay within the bond amount. And so what I would say it, I think that points a history as well as a commitment by the current board to not exceed the total bond amount, and to not see it as kind of a blank check to aspire to [inaudible 01:21:32] library, but as very much as the budget that we're going to say within.

Speaker 11:

Okay. Now, why is it taking so long? Why is it taking so long?

Speaker 12:

So people who have in-

Speaker 11:

No, no. I'm going to answer that. That was rhetorical to you.

Speaker 12:

Can I just [crosstalk 01:21:53]?

Speaker 11:

Go ahead, go ahead.

Speaker 12:

So what it was was some of the Library Advisory Committee members have been following us. So some of these people we spoke to last fall. Some of these people we updated people in the newsletter. So, people who have diligently been keeping on this stuff asked the question, "Why is it taking so long?"

Speaker 11:

So, we've have a few things that add to reason why this is taking so long. One of them is [inaudible 01:22:23]. It's very to [inaudible 01:22:24]. We did not do [inaudible 01:22:28]. What we're doing now, we're [inaudible 01:22:29]. Just looking at 2020 in hindsight, we're learning. I've never done anything like this. [inaudible 01:22:36] done anything like this, but I certainly have never done anything like this, and so it's a learning process. And as you learn, you try to incorporate what you learn and you put it to method. So we're doing our [inaudible 01:22:52]. Like building a building, if you want to lay that foundation, you want to make sure you get your stuff right upfront. And I guess at some extent, we didn't get that word out enough. We had meetings, open meetings, but if nobody attends the meeting... Even though you're being publicly out there and everybody's allowed [inaudible 01:23:13], but if you're

in a room by yourself saying, "Hey, this is what we do" and nobody's there [inaudible 01:23:19] hear you. And that's a little bit what [inaudible 01:23:21]. We've been absolutely transparent in every thing we do. [crosstalk 01:23:27].

Speaker 12:

It's getting better. So how does that contribute to taking so long?

Speaker 11:

So that contributes to taking so long because when you finally came through and put [inaudible 01:23:37] out [inaudible 01:23:38] for 23 and a half million dollars, all of sudden people say, "[inaudible 01:23:44], where'd this come from? I didn't know anything about this. This just popped up all of sudden. It's the first time I'm hearing of it." And maybe somebody heard about it when it was [inaudible 01:23:55] million dollars, now it's 23 and a half. But they didn't hear the four or five months in between [inaudible 01:24:01] from one another to the other and see the escalation. So it becomes all of a sudden [inaudible 01:24:08] increases and that's not what happened. But because of that, we [inaudible 01:24:14] the whole pandemic. And also, we lost a board member [inaudible 01:24:23] who passed away during all of this. We took a pause, we [inaudible 01:24:24] back and then we said, "We need to reach out." And so we're reaching out. We want [inaudible 01:24:30] input. We want to get this message out. I know we're not going to reach [inaudible 01:24:36]. I know that everybody's going to [inaudible 01:24:39], but I feel what we're doing now is certainly getting the word out. And the people who didn't know before, they sure know now, and they can share that with people that they know. And by word of mouth, it's going to get out there.

Speaker 11:

So the reason it's taking so long is because we're doing our due diligence. We want to make sure that we [inaudible 01:25:01] as much as we can, get as much of a public [inaudible 01:25:05] so that this amounts to promise. We're all committee members. We [inaudible 01:25:11] with respect [inaudible 01:25:12] to some extent I feel. This is why it's taking so long. Yes, we'd like to get it done sooner but we don't want to rush either. It's just doing something for my own [inaudible 01:25:25] and I've changed a lot, and [inaudible 01:25:28]. I just want to get this thing done. I've been working on this for two years. Quite frankly, I'm not listening to anybody, but I changed. I listened. I heard. And I [inaudible 01:25:41] but basically shut anything down, anybody's [inaudible 01:25:46]. But we [inaudible 01:25:48]. We noticed [inaudible 01:25:50] heard us, and that [inaudible 01:25:54] vote, and making a vote with knowledge, but not based upon, I don't know, [inaudible 01:26:01].

Speaker 11:

So I don't know if I made it completely clear, but I think I hit upon one of the points of why it's taking... And I'm sorry it's taking so long. I'd like it to be done but I can't... But it will be done. It'll be done at the correct time, that everything has [inaudible 01:26:26] happening, and [inaudible 01:26:28]. So-

Female:

Okay. [inaudible 01:26:33].

Speaker 11:

What other point? What other questions do we have?

Speaker 12:

How did it get so bad?

Speaker 11:

What get so bad? The library?

Speaker 12:

The building.

Speaker 11:

The building? Well, [inaudible 01:26:40] before. Over time, it just [inaudible 01:26:45] so bad. And we've been keeping up with it. We've been maintaining things, but [inaudible 01:26:52]. The roof isn't going bad from [inaudible 01:26:54]. That's what started this whole thing [inaudible 01:26:56].

Speaker 13:

We're trying [inaudible 01:27:00] that question.

Speaker 11:

[inaudible 01:27:00] about that? Oh, sure, sure. That's [inaudible 01:27:01]. Absolutely. You can do it. Thank you.

Speaker 13:

The only reason I say even that is because I've been knee deep into because I'm new. So I kind of have a very outsider perspective.

Speaker 11:

And [inaudible 01:27:12] questions [inaudible 01:27:12].

Speaker 13:

Okay.

Speaker 11:

But thank you.

Speaker 13:

I got it. So from my understanding, some of the infrastructure issues such as the roof has been here since it was built. It never built [inaudible 01:27:30]. That's one point. That's just the roof. The real big issue, however, is the fact the ground that we're on, that it's a slab ground, [inaudible 01:27:43] underneath it and the moisture from when it rains a lot comes through the floor. And the humidity is the biggest problem here. So what that does, it creates a simple [inaudible 01:27:56] effect where it can now affect the ventilation, which then affects the air conditioning and the heating. By the way, which [inaudible 01:28:05] during the summer to get [inaudible 01:28:07] humidity. So there is major infrastructure issues that are at hand.

Speaker 13:

So it did escalate, and unfortunately, the library has been very frugal in that they didn't go throughout the years [inaudible 01:28:24] to go and address these issues. It is a shame. However, some of these underlying issues are the kind of issues that are all connected, such as the heating, the ventilation, the moisture from the floor, the roofing. So, unfortunately, what it does, by delaying these issues throughout the years to save taxpayer's money, unfortunately it came to a big situation where all of it now needs to be replaced at the same time. Call it bad luck, call it bad design, call it whatever it needs to be, but right now, it's basically a pivotal point where it's all escalating at the same time because these issues are interconnected.

Speaker 13:

So, that's why I keep coming back to the fact that it's not whether it's \$150 a year per household or \$187 a year per household. It's a difference of, are we going to have a library in this building at this location, or are we not? Because of all these infrastructure and systems, the ventilation, HVAC, the plumbing, the electrical, which all need to be brought up to code in order to do anything here, these are all huge things. They're all accumulating all at the same time, and that's the problem. And we're trying to be smart and address them in a smart way to make sure that these underlying conditions don't haunt us in a quick renovation in the future, that we address them correctly this time so we don't have to do this again in 30 years.

Female:

Anything else?

Speaker 11:

[inaudible 01:30:14]. And just to say that [inaudible 01:30:22] was maintenance. [inaudible 01:30:24]. Yes, maintaining, going [inaudible 01:30:32] so that's beautiful. Maybe we should've been maintaining [inaudible 01:30:37]. We had a certain cost for that HVAC system but we were building [inaudible 01:30:39].

Speaker 14:

Say what year.

Speaker 11:

What?

Speaker 14:

In what year was that?

Speaker 11:

That was 1963.

Speaker 12:

The furnaces bought used in 1963.

Speaker 11:

The furnace [inaudible 01:30:39] 1963, the HVAC [inaudible 01:30:43] in 1971, I think. And so we had very little parts. And yes, we [inaudible 01:31:00] hindsight. As we did, we should've put it in budgets and put it [inaudible 01:31:04] and replaces [inaudible 01:31:07] years. And this is something that we should be doing [inaudible 01:31:10]. Just put in a maintenance program. But that's-

Speaker 14:

[inaudible 01:31:16] and you're putting in capital [inaudible 01:31:20] as well. [crosstalk 01:31:21]. No, no. You can say. You know it.

Speaker 11:

So the other thing is, we never really had [inaudible 01:31:29]. So we never had anything, but we saved the money so we could replace things. By saving money a little bit at a time and then replace it without having to [inaudible 01:31:41] extra money to make the [inaudible 01:31:43]. And so something that [inaudible 01:31:47] also [inaudible 01:31:48]. So we've learned our lesson but we can't pay for the staffing. We came in and [inaudible 01:31:56] but we're taking care of it now. Everything went wrong at the same time. And the one thing though that wouldn't change no matter what we fix is that we have bad foundation on top of a creek that is constantly giving us humidity. But a tear down and a rebuild, we'll be able to engineer that foundation over that creek so we do not have any humidity problems. And [inaudible 01:32:26]. We need [inaudible 01:32:31] and really [inaudible 01:32:33] have an efficient HVAC system that's going to work without having to [inaudible 01:32:40]. [inaudible 01:32:40] questions?

Speaker 12:

[inaudible 01:32:45] comments.

Female:

[crosstalk 01:32:49].

Speaker 15:

This is just for clarity. It's the [inaudible 01:32:55].

Female:

[crosstalk 01:32:55].

Female:

I'm sorry.

Speaker 14:

[crosstalk 01:32:55] at this time.

Female:

Right.

Speaker 14:

[inaudible 01:32:59].

Speaker 15:

But I went Googling this weekend to try to the drainage map for this [inaudible 01:33:11]. You remember the project.

Speaker 14:

I was still young [inaudible 01:33:17].

Speaker 15:

But this runs basically from [inaudible 01:33:23] Hill Road where I guess it was [inaudible 01:33:27] donated that field down [inaudible 01:33:32].

Speaker 14:

Oh, yeah. [inaudible 01:33:34].

Speaker 15:

And then there was work done cutting through [inaudible 01:33:38], et cetera, before it got to here. The architect [inaudible 01:33:43], whom we met with last week, talked about his recollections of a big cut through [inaudible 01:33:52] Central Avenue, a big dig, if you will. And then obviously it went all the way through [inaudible 01:33:58], through the park, all the way down to [inaudible 01:34:02]. And you'll see [inaudible 01:34:04] from a jogging, walking [inaudible 01:34:07]. There are big cisterns along the way through the walking path of [inaudible 01:34:15] south [inaudible 01:34:17]. But I couldn't find the drainage map. So hopefully when we see Mrs. [Kenny 01:34:23] on Wednesday, we can ask her to provide her with some studies [inaudible 01:34:29] and so forth. And ask the town engineer to provide some [inaudible 01:34:36] and what's going on here. Because they must've piped... If you stand you out at the curve here, on any given day, you can hear the water rushing in the [inaudible 01:34:53] space, just to the left of the front entrance. So there's definitely piping going on.

Speaker 15:

Just on the side here, they took federal money for that project. And as a consequence, this is one of the parks [inaudible 01:35:12] residents from. I'm sure they don't advertise it but that was a... Pardon?

Speaker 14:

This park?

Speaker 15:

No, [inaudible 01:35:21]. So, that was a big deal a couple years ago when the park [inaudible 01:35:28] was being inundated. They did a survey of all of the parks and if it was acquired with strictly local tax money or if it was a donated park like the [inaudible 01:35:41] up on Main Street, that's the park up there, they do have the right to [inaudible 01:35:48]. They could use federal money in any fashion and that's what they did here in [inaudible 01:35:55]. Thanks.

Speaker 14:

I think [inaudible 01:35:55].

Speaker 15:

The county [inaudible 01:35:55] project?

Speaker 14:

No, no. I'm saying that they have [inaudible 01:35:58].

Speaker 11:

Oh. You're saying that the county may not be [inaudible 01:35:58]. Thank you.

Speaker 14:

I think that was [inaudible 01:36:17].

Speaker 11:

Okay. We hit all the questions?

Speaker 12:

So, yes. So just to reiterate for the board meeting. At the end of this [inaudible 01:36:23] written report of the advisory committee [inaudible 01:36:38] and anything thus far.

Speaker 11:

Okay. So [inaudible 01:36:38] just [inaudible 01:36:38] advisory committee input and [inaudible 01:36:38] input. Again, if not, I'd like to move on to the last item on the agenda, and that's the discussion on how do we proceed [inaudible 01:36:50].

Speaker 12:

So today, at your most recent full board meeting, you voted to table the approval in regards to the [inaudible 01:36:58] for the project in it's entirety, as well as the vote date. Table the [inaudible 01:37:05]. So, including to discuss it prior to showing up at the board meeting and presenting questions or concerns or [inaudible 01:37:18] or...

Speaker 11:

So, how do we do this? Is it possible to have a date without [inaudible 01:37:26]? You'd like to have a vote. If you get that vote [inaudible 01:37:32], get people to be able to put it on their calendar so that it's there, we can start to have an end goal in sight. But right now, I don't know if you're comfortable putting full value [inaudible 01:37:49], and I don't want to say it's got to be 23 and a half because I'm not [inaudible 01:37:56]. And we don't have a report yet. So I don't want to do that. [inaudible 01:38:04]. To be able to have a vote, at least have an idea [inaudible 01:38:09] start putting things on their calendar. And it's one of things that's how do you [inaudible 01:38:15].

Speaker 12:

As far as you need people [crosstalk 01:38:15].

Speaker 16:

It's going to the board [inaudible 01:38:20] for the vote? Is that what you're saying? [crosstalk 01:38:20].

Speaker 12:

[inaudible 01:38:20].

Speaker 16:

I'm trying to talk loud [inaudible 01:38:20].

Speaker 11:

Oh, I'm sorry. Yeah, it's not going to work.

Speaker 16:

It's not going to work.

Speaker 11:

[inaudible 01:38:20].

Female:

The room is just large.

Speaker 16:

Okay.

Speaker 11:

[inaudible 01:38:20].

Speaker 16:

No, I just didn't know what you meant. You need people to go to the Board of Education to put the vote out there or you need [inaudible 01:38:20] end date vote that we're hoping for? [inaudible 01:38:22] back and forth [inaudible 01:38:22].

Speaker 11:

We need one without [inaudible 01:38:26].

Speaker 16:

Yeah.

Speaker 11:

I mean, ultimately, I would like a little bit of hope. I mean, as long as we vote and the date that we choose, and hopefully it [inaudible 01:39:00]. It's not really [inaudible 01:39:02]. It's just hope that really just to be means to be able to [inaudible 01:39:06]. Just [inaudible 01:39:07] vote. It's just they have to

put it on the agenda. They just have to put in on the calendar. I don't know that it needs a vote, but [inaudible 01:39:11]-

Speaker 14:

It's a vote.

Speaker 11:

It's a vote?

Speaker 16:

Yeah.

Speaker 11:

Okay. So, it's a vote [inaudible 01:39:19] positively [inaudible 01:39:20]. But I'd like to have an idea of [inaudible 01:39:25]. Are we going to do [inaudible 01:39:27]? I really don't want to [inaudible 01:39:27]. It's been a year.

Speaker 16:

How many [inaudible 01:39:27]?

Speaker 11:

It's been more than a year, and I don't want to go [inaudible 01:39:27]. Because if we have [inaudible 01:39:27] have a second wave, when it starts getting cold [inaudible 01:39:27] inside than outside in the sun as much. [inaudible 01:39:51] happens [inaudible 01:39:52] variance. I want to make sure that we [inaudible 01:39:55] get started on the project was, as [inaudible 01:39:59] said, this is costing us money every [inaudible 01:40:02]. In \$250,000, [inaudible 01:40:05] \$500,000 [inaudible 01:40:09]. Two million a year, more or less. It's still costing money every [inaudible 01:40:13] every [inaudible 01:40:14] and it's time [inaudible 01:40:16]. We need to start getting our [inaudible 01:40:20] but [inaudible 01:40:23] to this. But I realize we're not ready to make the final decision, however, I'd to know if we can choose. So my question is, yes, can we have that date? Can we put the date down? Is that [inaudible 01:40:42]? But we really want to have [inaudible 01:40:42].

Speaker 16:

[inaudible 01:40:44].

Speaker 11:

[inaudible 01:40:46].

Speaker 14:

[inaudible 01:40:46].

Speaker 11:

[inaudible 01:40:53].

Speaker 14:

I know the answer to that question. I think we're going to be hard pressed even as we recognize [inaudible 01:41:01]. We are going to have to [inaudible 01:41:05], big cutbacks and changes to the design. I think thinking that we're going to get significant [inaudible 01:41:12] in this process is going to be difficult. I think we all recognize that. I don't think by setting a figure that we're going to ask the school board to look at and a date [inaudible 01:41:30], get that on the [inaudible 01:41:33], that's not going to change that much. That's doesn't recruit us all from getting lots of [inaudible 01:41:40] as we go forward. [inaudible 01:41:42] don't get run until that bond is approved. It can't be submitted to the state education department [inaudible 01:41:50]. So I think we need to set that as a we've made beautiful efforts to estimate what it's going to cost to renovate/rebuild the library. I think we [inaudible 01:42:04]...

PART 3 OF 4 ENDS [01:42:04]

William Morris:

Renovate/rebuilding the library. I think we are going to have to set that in place, keep working up to that because we are living on borrowed time with construction.

Irene D'Anna:

I think we should use the end of this month to do a meeting with the advisory board, including the response for other people who very much are not aware, for whatever reason, what we've done and what we're doing. However, I'm very confident that we can come up with a number before the end of this month for our board meeting. And we will consider smaller scope options and discussing it with our advisory unit. I believe that any delay in moving this forward will cost the taxpayers more money and therefore we should not delay it anymore. So, I think we can accomplish the right number and the right date by the end of this month. [inaudible 01:43:10].

Michael McCue:

I'm just not sure we can state that we're going to come up with a number. Where are we going to come up with a different number in two weeks time?

Irene D'Anna:

Well, can Eugenia talk about that?

Eugenia Schatoff:

So I can speak to the fact that if the board were interested in considering an alternative option that, that would be something that you have the architects and construction firm come up with either an austerity plan or a scale of that version of the plan. There is no way that it could be ready for the May meeting. It could potentially be ready for the June meeting depending on your availability to meet that. But that would be something very clearly that you as a board would have to decide tonight, if were willing to entertain an alternative option that you would then weigh at the same time as you weigh the current plan and then you would make that decision. That's how that works.

Eugenia Schatoff:

Right now the timeline that we are looking at is you consider voting on this at your May meeting at the end of the month to attempt to get into one of the school board meeting agendas in June. So, if we were looking at an alternative plan of scope that isn't available until the end of the month of June, then you would be missing those school board meetings and you would have to further ascertain whether or not they were planning on having it in the summer meetings, otherwise it would further it along.

William Morris:

I have a question. Say we put a resolution on the agenda for the 25th of May asking the board to set a vote for September on a 23.5 million bond. If during the course of the next few months, as we review this with the advisory committee and talk to them and work and take their comments and thoughts into consideration, are we obligated with that to actually bond for that approach? Do we have to actually take that level of approach? Say, somehow we match, we came up with a different million dollar contract, we were looking at... not that I'm saying ours is not realistic, but could we only actually issue a \$15 million response?

Eugenia Schatoff:

So, you ask a really good question which is the same question that I've asked of our attorney and our architectural team and our construction management. So, the wording for the resolution does not include the bond amount, it only includes the vote call date. So, potentially you could put something before the school board of education that would request an open-ended vote date. So, a vote date to be no later than October 30th or something like that.

Eugenia Schatoff:

However, you wouldn't want to push your decision making on an alternative secondary project past June. Because nothing speaks to more confidence than say, "Yes. We have a vote. We don't know the project you're voting on, we don't know what the number is." So, it could be done, but only on a strict plan of how you were going to proceed. And I wouldn't want to leave tonight even without making a clear timeline of where we were going to go with that.

William Morris:

I can just state where I'm at on this. It's not necessarily the view of the entire board, I'm sure, but I think given the amount of work that we've put in to this, what we've looked at is that over the course of several years, I think it's unrealistic to think that... Can we ask the board to invest somewhere in the area of the 23.5 million. That we could make changes to the plans, we could make some adjustments, some that are going to be necessary because costs are escalating as we speak. But you're right, we need to get out there with a number. And I think as Irene said, it's only going to get worse, we can't just keep pushing this out because it's only going to cost the taxpayers more money in the interim.

Eugenia Schatoff:

So, I guess the question would be, because I'm hearing different things from different board members, would you be willing to entertain the investigation of a secondary option? It sounds like at this point, you trustee Morris are not interested in that.

Donna Warren:

To phrase it like what we've been saying all along, not to exceed \$23.5 million. To go with a project that we've put time and effort in to, that we've compromised on and been working on for years, it makes sense to leave it up to the vote, let them make the decision on whether they want this or not at this point. We've done the homework, we've done it all, now it's just a matter of them understanding why and how, which is what's happening at this point. So, I'd like to see us pursue with this current project to not exceed the \$23.5.

Michael McCue:

I concur with my esteemed colleagues.

Irene D'Anna:

I also agree. However, I'd want to do another investigation because that is what the advisory board members said, the advisory committee people wanted us to do. I still want to pursue it but I do want to put it out to vote for it not to exceed 23.5. Because what might happen is, as we pursue it we might find out, as Bill just said, it's not going to be any cheaper or it's not going to be worth complaint. I still want to pursue it because that's what our neighbors are asking us to do.

Eric Sharrin:

So, let me understand, when you say, "I'd like to pursue a secondary investigation," expand on what you mean.

Eugenia Schatoff:

I can state so, when looking at investigating a potential alternative action, it would be revisiting earlier schemes so, not completely denigrating the previous work that has been done. But it's looking at previous schemes, reducing some of the scope. Because I think one of the consistent pieces of feedback is this idea of having a full second floor and having a full rebuild. So, is there any more cost-effective action that does not involve a full tear down, it does not involve a full second floor? This would be something that we would say to the architectural team. They would come up with several different versions, as previously the ad hoc committee would review the versions, provide feedback on which they felt was the best. And then whatever final option that we still felt that, that [inaudible 01:51:20] needs would then be roughly sent to the construction management team to provide a rough cost estimate. [crosstalk 01:51:27]

Eric Sharrin:

One thing that just concerned me in that whole thing, everything I've heard, all our discussions, was in fact this is a tear down and we have to at least go down below the foundation, redo the foundations. So, we've got to start from square. We can take a look at the previous ones, but I feel if we do anything staying on a poor foundation, bear footings, I would not want to do that, personally. I really feel that would be a waste of everybody's time, all around. I don't mind looking at the plans but I think the foundations-

Eugenia Schatoff:

So, to be clear, the foundation, if hacked at one level in certain parts of the building is completely adequate and safe for people to currently be in the building.

Eric Sharrin:

Okay. But would that remediate the Cherry Brook going underneath and the humidity that is a constant factor? Because that is also one of the reasons that everything happened, it was overworking, with maintenance it was working and it just was so humid, it just stopped working. Would that be remediated? Would you still have the same humidity problems? It would be a question I have, but I hear what you're saying, but these are big concerns. I understand the foundation would support one floor, that's fine. You still have the Cherry Brook, you still have this humidity.

William Morris:

I think it would be shortsighted and theoretically just to imagine a middle ground, you could theoretically rip everything down, put a better foundation in that blocks the humidity and build this building back up. And perhaps that would cost less than a two-story building. Do I think that a new AC system and boiler would provide relief from the humidity problems that we've had for all these years? Yes. It can do that, but I don't think it addresses the fact that we're now going into the middle of the 21st century and we're not preparing ourselves to deliver the services that we need to be able to deliver to the community. There are these alternatives, still can't be the fixes of those mechanical and structural problems that perhaps would cost less, but I think they would be pretty wise to do it.

Irene D'Anna:

So, I think everybody on this board has been down this road before. And actually in my recent findings, because I'm only new, I've actually gone through the process and seen the decisions that you guys have made along the way to come to the conclusion that you're at now. And yes. So, the people that are on the advisory committee, that's the point of them being there, it's to pick holes in the decisions that we've made so far. And I don't want to short change those folks and those ideas because, as I found when meeting these people, there are great ideas. So, I actually agree with you that re-doing the foundation is going to save us in the long run. I believe it's a better spend of our money because when you look at all the systems that need to be replaced, even if it's not a complete tear down, it's not that far off from a complete tear down.

Irene D'Anna:

However, there are possibilities of re-thinking, I just want to go through this process of re-thinking. Even with a complete tear-down to see if we could reduce it, that's it. Can we look at the space that we could have and what we can build and still look forward to provide better services? See if there's a way we could reduce the cost, still get what we have but somehow reduce it, we should try.

Irene D'Anna:

However, we should go to the board and do and say, "It's not going to be more than 23.5." Because we're going to try to reduce it but if we can't, we need to start right away. So, that's what I was thinking. I'm saying that I want to pursue it because we have an advisory committee telling us, "We should." And what's the point of forming this committee if we're not going to take our advice into account?

Michael McCue:

I hear you Irene but I just think it would result in more spinning of the wheels and we know, for instance, that Bruce Fonz who is renovating, not building. There are no new school buildings in town, that they just renovate. And I just worry. I want to hear them but the decision this year, it's this board's decision

and the hours spent... Not somebody coming once or twice with preconceived notions or even if they have good ideas, they would lend themselves in terms of retrenchment if the project's cost is going over the threshold that we agreed was the maximum. And we say, "Oh, there's an idea, let's run that down, see if we can shave a million somewhere down the road."

Michael McCue:

I just see this slipping and the uncertainty... If we went into the board and were not prepared to state something conclusively, not to exceed 23.5. If legal tells us that putting in print what the resolution has to look like in terms of the dollar figure, if that can wait a bit, okay. But at some point we've got to bite the bullet, just move forward. The circumstances in the outside world in terms of inflation, in terms of construction costs, etc. may require rethinking aspects of the project. But I'd be ready to vote at the next meeting on proceeding with the 23.5.

Donna Warren:

And I think that we are still going to be following our advisory committee on the way for feedback, for opinions or are we going this way or that way? They have to make a choice about the building, so I think you're still going to get valuable information that we're taking consideration from this.

William Morris:

Just to clarify what the feedback you're getting from some members of the school board. I've lived here for a long time and I assure you that it was not as big as it is now when I was a child or even as a young adult. And the high school has gotten bigger as well. So, they may not tear down and rebuild [crosstalk 02:00:08]. That's important to make it safe, it's not like they just suddenly had this historic building that they kept in exactly the same footprint, exactly the same size over the years.

Donna Warren:

Right. Even just the portion that they just put on. [crosstalk 02:00:30].

Irene D'Anna:

I hear what you guys are saying. What I'm saying is that even past this bond date, I want to just be very conscientious on cost. So, even though the 23.5 is a hard sell, I understand it's been difficult for people to digest that, I get that. I just want to come and let everybody know that I want to look at other... As we get past this bond date and we rebuild a new library, I just want to be conscientious about making sure that we find creative ways to save money. [crosstalk 02:01:47]. But the cost of the delaying it is not worth what we lose, which is every quarter that we make goes up.

Eric Sharrin:

We'll take a second look. And so, just looking at a few things of what we've learned so far, that not everybody agrees but I think there were enough people in the business that look at this building, architects, engineers and the like. It's got to be rebuilt. So, let's look at the facts, well if we have a small, small piece of .7 acres, that's 30,000 square feet, it's the size of a lot, it may be even smaller. 30,000 square feet, in acres that's .7 ... do the math, 30,000 square feet is [inaudible 02:02:52].

Eric Sharrin:

So, to build this building in the same way, can't make the tiered wedding cake work, it's not efficient, so we can look at square footage, build a second floor, they're not going to give us a second floor because it costs too much money. What's the argument for a second floor because then it won't work upstairs. It's strictly a monetary thing. Well, that comes to the point of looking at scope, where we can turn some around by having this small footprint and I understand some people don't understand why. But all of a sudden you have to come here and you'd like your clients to come here and meet you at this place and there's no place to park. And they've got to go drive way over there and it's raining and now they've got to come here. It would've been nice to have a spot. So, we can't look there, look at the plans, can we trade here, can we reduce here, can we cut the cost?

William Morris:

There's a good piece of time between now and getting a vote in September to adjust and listen and there's no argued best plans at this junction.

Eric Sharrin:

Yes. But it's one of those things, we can still do some works, we can still make this is in a small footprint, and it's not just for the parking, but as you get older you want to be close, walking gets harder. You got people with children, making them walk [inaudible 02:04:52]. [crosstalk 02:04:58].

William Morris:

I think we're at a place where we have a consensus to vote on the 25th.

Eric Sharrin:

We do. So, let's do that. But I don't want somebody [inaudible 02:05:05]. So, the point is, that just because we're saying it's 23.5, it may not be 23.5 but it almost is.

Eugenia Schatoff:

It most likely will.

Eric Sharrin:

... it looks like it will be.

Eric Sharrin:

We need to take a look at everything.

William Morris:

We can have those discussions and take the advisor committees thoughts and continuing thoughts as we move forward towards the bond date. Asking the school board [crosstalk 02:05:59] to set a date on a not to exceed bond is a rational thing to do. It doesn't preclude us taking in to account advice we get from the advisory committee, advice from other citizens in the community on what they want, things they think could be better. All that can keep happening but we need to get this vote on the calendar because we can't lose anymore time.

Eric Sharrin:

Yes.

Irene D'Anna:

Right. I think we're in agreement.

Eric Sharrin:

I think we're all in agreement there.

Eugenia Schatoff:

I think also in terms of having the vote and having it scheduled, this whole process, this whole project, you have to give it its due and the tax payer, the residents, will clearly let us know whether or not they believe in this project or not. And then when they let us know either they will support a new library or we'll go back to reducing scope and considering additional different options for our site.

Eric Sharrin:

But at least it's in the calendar. And let the tax payers make the decision. Not having it on the calendar is keeping people from being able to vote. We could go on and on and on, but until we have the votes there's no decision. So, it sounds like we're going to be asking for a date. [crosstalk 02:07:46]. I think we should probably schedule a meeting with the lawyer. We have to get any more legal advice. We have [crosstalk 02:08:00]. Are we going to choose a no later than date or are we going with a start up date?

Donna Warren:

I'd like to see us have a no later than date, so it gives flexibility for that time and then should something arise that we have to change, that we still have time thereafter to put the vote up if necessary.

William Morris:

I know what a hard resolution is, it's going to say no later than September 30th. But when they vote they're going to set the date, get it solid, when they take it up on their agenda.

Donna Warren:

Yes.

William Morris:

It's not that it's going to continue to be flexible.

Eugenia Schatoff:

Correct.

Eric Sharrin:

The only other question we can think about is [inaudible 02:09:06]. Do we have it strictly at the library? Are we going to have it at the library and maybe have it at the [inaudible 02:09:16] so it's at the school?

Donna Warren:

No. Why would we do that?

William Morris:

That just increases the cost.

Eric Sharrin:

Because this is such an important build that it may be worth spending a little bit of money to make sure we have as much turnout as possible.

Michael McCue:

People could come here just as easily.

Eric Sharrin:

I'm just putting it out there.

Irene D'Anna:

I want to save money. [crosstalk 02:09:37].

Eric Sharrin:

Just a thought. Community members have mentioned-

Donna Warren:

The only way that that makes sense was if it was going to happen at the same time as the school budget and it's not.

William Morris:

We can't wait that long.

Donna Warren:

We can't do that.

Eric Sharrin:

All right.

William Morris:

We can't wait that long. [crosstalk 02:10:04].

William Morris:

Just to reiterate what Ms. Warren and myself just said, is that only made sense if I'm arguing that it was going to be part of the school budget. And then we would vote together and pick up the turnout from that. We're not going to be able to wait until the next school budget which won't come around until next May. That's way, way past where we want to be.

Eric Sharrin:

Okay. Thank you.

Eugenia Schatoff:

I'd also like to add that if circumstances change... So, the important thing is getting a vote date. Once the vote date is set you have up until 45 days prior to that actual date to then postpone. So, if anything happens or if there are circumstances beyond our control, we've already delayed so much, I'm hoping we don't have to delay further. But if there was a scenario where we did have to delay, the important thing is having a date. And then that date can be postponed as opposed to delaying further for a date and not having anything set. Then it's just a mention opposed to having some past solution.

Eric Sharrin:

Does anybody have anything else they would like to add or say? [Crosstalk 02:11:34]. In that case I'd like to move on to the next item in our agenda. Is there any publics that wants to make a statement, have a question, comment?

Eugenia Schatoff:

Yes. So, we have a question and answer box on this Zoom so, if you'd like to enter if you have any questions or comments in the Zoom chat you can do so at this time. Is there any publics on? [crosstalk 02:12:08]. And nothing.

Eric Sharrin:

And nothing. Very good. In that case, the next item on the agenda is [inaudible 02:12:16]. I just wondered if somebody... [Crosstalk 02:12:16] would like to have a conversation about this? All in favor?

Eugenia Schatoff:

Aye.

Eric Sharrin:

We have adjourned at 9:24. Thank you, thank you, thank you all for coming out.

PART 4 OF 4 ENDS [02:12:36]