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Library Building Committee aims to select OPM by July 10

SELECTMEN'S NOTEBOOK

By MAUREEN DOHERTY

LYNNFIELD — The Library Building Committee (LBC) is one step closer to awarding the owner's project manager (OPM) contract for the library building project.

Nine firms applied for the contract and seven met their criteria for further consideration. From this list, three firms were "shortlisted" for interviews before the LBC, while two other "highly qualified" firms could also be tapped if any of the initial three firms fall through, according to LBC Chairman Russell Boekenkroeger.

To enable the LBC to keep to its timeline in awarding the contract by July 10, the selectmen voted 3-0 at its June 15 meeting to delegate to Town Administrator Jim Boudreau the ability to negotiate and award the contract.

Boekenkroeger explained that the LBC makes its recommendations to the Library Trustees who then will give Boudreau their recommendations.

Boudreau said normally the selectmen would award the contract based upon these recommendations, but since the board's next meeting is not until July 13 and he also serves as the town's chief procurement officer, this approach makes the most sense.

There is also precedent for this action, the most recent being the awarding of the contracts for the construction of the town's playing fields handled by former T.A. Bill Gustus.

Selectmen Chairman Phil Crawford said, "I know you have a time-frame that you have to work with and your funding agreement had the deadline. The funding is already in place. There is no town money; it is library money. I don't see a problem with this at all. We've done it in the past." Selectmen Tom Terranova and Chris Barrett agreed.

Terranova asked what the estimated cost for the new or renovated library would be. Boekenkroeger said, "That is why we are doing this."

Library Director Nancy Ryan added, "It depends on whether we renovate on site or build a new freestanding building in new location."

Boudreau said it costs approximately \$300 per square foot to build a library and they are looking to build a 24,000-square foot building. He said by doing the simple math it is an expensive project.

"The state reimburses 40 percent

to 50 percent of the cost so you are still looking at \$3.5M to \$4M."

Ryan added, "We have a long way to go. I would not be surprised if the square footage goes down." She added that due to the limited availability of parking at the existing location if the town was to renovate this building the town would be disqualified from any state reimbursement funds.

Selectman Chris Barrett said he was "most impressed" by the "outstanding" work the library study committee has done to date.

Vacancies filled

The selectmen voted unanimously to approve the appointments of three residents to fill vacancies on three town boards.

• Barbara White was appointed to the Lynnfield Cultural Council. She has two school-age children and vast experience in multi-media production and branding communications as a producer for Jack Morton Worldwide as well as experience in contemporary art and public relations.

• Rocco Iocco, DMD, was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Board of Health following the retirement of David Jamison, DSS, from the board earlier this month. Iocco has practiced dentistry for 29 years, 27 of which have been in his own practice in town. He holds undergraduate degrees in both microbiology and medical technology and has served as a consultant for Blue Cross and Blue Shield as well as leadership positions within both the Massachusetts and North Shore Dental Societies. He is also a past president of the Lynnfield Lions Club.

• Angelo Salamone was appointed as an alternate member to the Conservation Commission. A 1979 graduate of Northeast Metro Tech in Wakefield where he studied carpentry, he has worked in the field as a carpenter and builder for 36 years. He holds a construction supervisor's license and has overseen both residential and commercial projects for the past 20 years. He has worked for private companies and as an independent home building which has given him first-hand knowledge of going before boards such as the Conservation Commission and working within the rules and regulations that affect the industry.

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• The selectmen unanimously