

The Gilford School Board held a special meeting on Wednesday September 12, 2018 at the Gilford SAU Office Conference Room. Present were board members Gretchen Gandini, Rae Mello-Andrews, Chris McDonough and Karen Thurston. Representing Gilmanton was Adam Mini and Michelle Heyman. Administrators present were Kirk Beitler and Scott Isabelle. Also present were Tim Bartlett and Ken Mullevey.

OPENING School Board Chairperson Rae Mello-Andrews called the meeting to order at 7:03a.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance and confirmed posting of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT No public comment was offered.

SPRINKLER SYSTEM Superintendent Beitler stated that he had spoken about the high school and middle school sprinkler system at the last school board meeting saying that we have more information to share and that we have areas that are in need of critical repairs
Tim Bartlett explained that a couple of years ago we had issues with the sprinkler system and Capitol Fire Protection came and did some critical repairs. There were more incidences last year. This year we had a sprinkler leaking in a second floor classroom at the high school. The district reached out to Capitol Fire Protection and hired them to do a 3-day survey of the system. 90 areas were documented as needing repair. Tim asked them to refine the critical areas.
Tim Bartlett referred to the handout where the areas in pink are considered critical areas with one or more corroded pipes. The blue areas are less critical but do show signs of corrosion.
Tim has been in touch with two different water companies trying to narrow down what is causing the problem. He suggested we take water samples and find out if something is wrong with the water.
Tim shared two quotes from Capitol Fire Protection to repair the leaks in the critical areas:

- \$12,440.00 to repair the 22 leaks in the critical areas. This quote is for the work to be performed between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
- \$17,575.00 to perform the work on 2nd shift, a difference of \$5,135.00

Tim's recommendation is to go with second shift option as soon as possible.

Discussion ensued regarding the urgency of getting this work done. Superintendent Beitler emphasized that one of the critical areas is in the high school chemical prep lab and expressed concern if a pipe were to go in that area, it would be dangerous. He would propose doing the critical areas first and then test the water so we can treat it if there is an issue. Tim Bartlett suggested that when Capitol Fire Protection takes the drops down, we could get water samples.

SPRINKLER SYSTEM Chris McDonough inquired if Capitol Fire offered any advice. Tim replied that they are at a loss. It could be a water issue but they are not sure.

Gretchen share that her neighbors had corrosion from the water. She understands that we need to get this done immediately but asked if there a way to clean the system if it is the water or will we have to replace the pipes and then have to do it again because there is more corrosion. Tim stated that with so many drops, once they are filled, the only way to completely flush the system is to take down every sprinkler head in the building.

Gretchen Gandini inquired if they ever do a plastic type of system? Tim replied that he did not know if that was allowed under code and that we would have to look into it. Rae Mello-Andrews asked if the piping in the high school is newer than the piping in the middle school? Tim replied no, the systems were dry systems only. Gretchen Gandini asked if it would it make sense to test the water before we fix. Tim Bartlett stated that he would do it as part of the fix. With the number of chemicals that are stored in the chemical prep room, we could end up with a hazmat situation.

Chris McDonough inquired if it is exterior corrosion. He would like to know what is going on inside or is it just the introduction of air? Scott Isabelle replied that in the sections we have taken out, we have seen corrosion both in and out. We have unanswered questions, which is why we are looking at fixing the critical areas

Adam Mini asked if this is this an “out to bid situation.” Tim Bartlett stated that it was not put out to bid as Capitol Fire Protection installed and maintained the system for the last 15 years. They have all the blue prints and are intimately familiar with the system, and therefore did the investigation. Scott Isabelle stated that if another company came in to give us a comparison bid, they would not rely on the assessment by Capitol Fire Protection and would do their own.

SPRINKLER SYSTEM

Chris McDonough inquired if there has been any discussion about changing to a dry system. Tim Bartlett said he has not brought that up but we can investigate. Capitol Fire Protection said they find premature corrosion in dry systems. A dry system is still under pressure as it is full of air.

Scott Isabelle explained that contracted services/special projects came in under budget with a balance remaining of \$30,000. Of the \$30,000, we tapped into \$17,000 and have a remaining balance of \$13,000. Contracted services maintenance has a balance of \$50,000. There is also the Capital reserve account of \$150,000. The Capital Reserve account is an expendable trust so the board does have authority to use the funds. Scott’s recommendation would be to use the budget first, and then if we have to we could tap into the reserve account. He would not recommend tapping into the reserve account now.

Chris McDonough asked for clarification on the \$30,000 balance from contracted services/special projects. Scott explained that it was left over funds from summer projects. Chris McDonough asked if the proposal was to spend the \$17,000 now.

Superintendent Beitler stated that we would like to go ahead with the critical repairs, testing of water, testing of the system and materials of the pipes. We can come back to the board with a report and recommendation as to how we are going to remedy the problem as well as how to tackle the rest of the problem areas.

Gretchen Gandini asked how much it is going to cost to test the water and is that included in the quote. Tim replied no but it will not be too expensive, a few hundred dollars but not thousands. Scott Isabelle replied that if there is no answer with the water testing, it could be a couple of thousand dollars if we have to get an engineering firm to come in.

Michelle Heyman asked about the addition work. Tim replied that it would be covered by in house labor.

Rae Mello-Andrews asked if we already have a water filtration system. Tim said we do not. Rae replied that if we find it is a water issue, maybe we should consider a filtration system.

Karen Thurston asked how the critical areas were determined. Tim responded that he relied on Capitol Fire Protection. Some areas showed less corrosion than others.

Gretchen Gandini made a motion to do the immediate urgent repairs for the \$17,575 nbntwith the condition that we are going to look into the water quality. The motion was seconded by Karen Thurston and passed on a unanimous vote.

Scott Isabelle question the board, if the water testing is okay, do you want us to get an engineer to look into it or come back to the board before moving on. Chris McDonough stated we should get the water test and then go from there.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:36 a.m. on a motion by Karen Thurston and a second by Chris McDonough, the board adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Gretchen Gandini
School Board Secretary**