

Minutes of the Meredith Public Library Board of Trustees, Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Trustees present: Rhetta Colon, Duncan McNeish, Ann Butler, Paul Eldridge, Mary Richardson, Colleen Nolan, Pam Coburn

Others present: Erin Apostolos, Library Director

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM

Its purpose was to discuss funding for the project to repair of the library's chimneys, gutters and masonry.

Background:- In the original numbers, the BoS had allocated \$177,859, the full amount that trustees had specified to CIP for the project. In a subsequent effort to lower the tax burden, BoS cut \$77,000.

The trustees believed the project would go forward because the LCHIP grant would cover \$70,000 of the estimate, and the remaining \$7,000 could be taken from the 2013 encumbrance. Although the town manager had signed off on the grant application, he did not feel comfortable signing off on the L-CHIP project agreement because the BoS members present at the 1/8/2014 workshop objected to including the gutters in the project.

L-CHIP requires that money be used for the restoration work specified. Money cannot be accepted and then used for any other purpose. Loss of these funds imperils the entire project.

BoS Workshop Meeting of 1/8/14:- The trustees and Erin did not attend the workshop session because we did not know that the library project would be a topic of discussion. Trustees & Erin listened to most of the January 8 webcast discussion about funding for the library repairs. It is clear that the three Selectmen present think the library is adding gutters where none exist. They do not understand we are repairing a drainage system embedded in the walls which has been in place since 1900.

Discussion:- Our chance to clarify the situation is the BoS workshop on 2/3 at 4:15. The trustees reviewed a Word document that outlines the project, corrects misunderstandings, and cites expert consultants. They decided to send this document to the Town Manager for inclusion in the Select Board packet for the February 3 workshop and regular meetings.

Trustees will make attending the 2/3 meetings a priority. In addition, the trustees asked that Kent Brown, Clerk of the Works for the project, and Norm Larsen of CPW Architects to attend and answer questions as well. These will be billable hours.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:47. Ann proposed, Paul seconded the motion, all voted aye.

Next meeting: 6:00 PM, February 11, 2014