

Update on High School Athletic Fields (Articles #25 and #26)

We wanted to update you on the status of the High School Outdoor Athletic Fields, covered in Articles #25 (Part 1) and #26 (Part 2) at this week's Annual Town Meeting. ***We have decided to pass over these two articles until Fall 2018 and want to explain our rationale.***

At Fall Town Meeting this past November, funds were approved to design and bid plans to renovate the High School Stadium Complex (Part 1) and Swap and Reconstruct the Tennis Courts and Softball Field (Part 2). Since that time, the Owner's Project Manager (Leftfield, LLC) and Design Firm (Weston and Sampson) have been working diligently to complete plans under the oversight of the town's Permanent Municipal Building Committee (PMBC). We were optimistic that plans could be completed by Annual Town Meeting, but knew the timing was very tight.

The PMBC has discussed the status of Part 1 and Part 2 of the project with us. Currently:

- The schematic design for the project has been completed however design development and construction documents have yet to be completed.
- The estimated start date for construction is spring of 2019.
- There are several unresolved items with Part 1 of the project that could significantly impact the budget, including whether bathrooms need to be added, the review of alternative infill options for the stadium's synthetic turf field to determine the best option for health, safety and ground water impact, and adequately addressing aquifer protection. As a result, the current \$3.5MM budget may not be prudent for Part 1. A more likely budget that would address the unresolved issues is \$4MM plus or minus 10%.
- There are no outstanding or unresolved issues for Part 2 of the project and it can be completed for the current \$1.96MM budget.

Given the PMBC's report on the status of the project, we feel the right thing to do is to pass over the two High School Outdoor Athletic Fields articles (#25 and #26) and bring them back to the town in the Fall because:

- ***The timing of the construction will not be impacted.***
- The additional time will give the PMBC and Weston and Sampson the chance to resolve the open issues, further develop the budget with the best and most effective options to protect the health, safety and environmental resources of the town, and complete design documents and put them out to bid, thus bringing a more accurate and full account of the project to residents.
- The vote at last Tuesday's election for non-exempt debt to be an option for the project funding should still be valid according to the Department of Revenue.

We are confident that, even if we wait until the Fall to seek funding, the High School Outdoor Athletic Fields project will be completed in 2019 or the first half of 2020 and done so in the best manner and most cost conscious way possible. Thank you for your

support as we move forward. As always, please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

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