

1 Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)
2 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes: Monday, April 8, 2019 5:20 PM
3 Assembly Room, Career Development Center
4

5 RGB members present: Francis Kinney, Edward Letourneau, Kenneth Swierad at 5:40PM and
6 Rickey Harrington, Board Chair.
7

8 CDC represented by Meg Honsinger, Assistant Director, Cathy Vosburgh, Interim Business
9 Manager and Rob Bahny, Workforce and Education Training Coordinator.
10

11 Public: Pat LeBoeuf, Bennington Banner reporter
12

13 Recorded by Sandra L. Redding, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
14

15 Board Chair opened the meeting by asking for public comments. There were none. Ed
16 Letourneau was appointed chair of this committee. He opened with discussion concerning the
17 Orchard Road property. The property is across from the Molly Stark School, is available for sale
18 or lease. Rob Bahny, David Dence and Brian Coon reached out to Dan Monks at the Bennington
19 Town office and other town workers. The CDC might be interested in using the property for
20 storage of vehicles and equipment. The property/building needs work and this could be part of a
21 proposal to the town. It was noted that whoever purchases the property becomes responsible for
22 all issues related to said property. That could involve soil and well testing which could be
23 somewhat expensive. Molly Stark uses the property for additional parking and the fire
24 department uses the property as well. Brian Coon previously stated the Building Trades program
25 could do any physical work on the build. Question asked as to how that might affect the Habitat
26 project. Habitat is a yearly organized project, so we do not know year to year what will be needed.
27

27 Other issues:

- 28 • Act 46
- 29 • Fencing
- 30 • Non-profit vs. profit
- 31 • Liability
- 32 • Salt storage
- 33 • Upkeep

34 The committee would like more research done on this particular property and also a search done
35 for any other potential ways to house the CDC vehicles and equipment. Contact Dan Monks at
36 the Town Office.
37

38 A discussion ensued re: CDL/Tractor/Truck/Bus Purchases: Rob Bahny and Meg Honsinger
39 shared information discussed at the last Education/Facilities committee meeting, Thursday, April
40 4, 2019. Concerning the CDL program and vehicles needed, David Dence updated the ed/fac
41 committee on the difficulties he is facing getting all students certified with the vehicle we have
42 now. He noted that we must travel to Springfield, VT with our students one at a time, for testing
43 with our current CDL appropriate truck which certainly can be a challenge and an increasing cost
44 factor to the program. We can only take one student at a time even for training and observation
45 due to regulations and cab size. That is something to be considered when purchasing a new
46 vehicle. Some vehicles are designed to allow additional students to travel in same vehicle. With
47 that in mind, we are informing the committee of the appropriate specs and costs for the purchase
48 of another used vehicle appropriate for CDL training with the ability to carry/train/observe more
49 than one student at a time. It was suggested that the search include newer vehicles as opposed
50 to older ones. There is sufficient money available in our funds. Rickey Harrington put forth the
51 amount of up to \$40, 000. as requested by the CDC for a vehicle. Fran Kinney seconded. Ken
52 Swierad abstained as he had not heard the full discussion. Motion passed. This recommendation
53 will be brought to the full board for consideration and a search will ensue.
54

55 Bus replacement was the next discussion topic. Because of the very significant
56 use/need/condition of our buses, we are in dire need of an additional bus. We expect to see an

1 increase in bus trips due to the upcoming after school programs that the CDC will be offering.
2 Looking for 18 passenger with all the required school bus equipment. We will recycle vehicles to
3 programs as need be. An amount of up to \$35,000.was requested for this purchase. There is
4 sufficient money available in our funds. Rickey Harrington made the motion and Fran Kinney
5 seconded the motion to approval up to \$35,000 for this vehicle. Vote was unanimous. This
6 recommendation will be brought before the full board for consideration.

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8 Under "Other", it was brought to the attention of the committee that we have two CDC classrooms
9 in need of heating/cooling repairs, Univents. The LNA classroom, C156 has significant
10 overheating and continuous cold air blowing problems. The Pre-Law classroom, C220, has
11 heating problems. The building superintendent, Paul Dansereau, after working with HVAV
12 specialists informs us that the units need to be replaced. They are probably over 20 years old.
13 Interim Business Manager, Cathy Vosburgh, informed the committee that she believes there is
14 sufficient funds to cover this expense. She plans to use funds from local budget. The request
15 from Dansereau is \$14,000 per unit, so 3 units total approx \$42,000. Rickey Harrington motioned
16 for approval of the spending of \$42,000 for the necessary replacements/repairs as stated. Fran
17 Kinney seconded. Vote was unanimous. This recommendation will be brought before the full
18 board.

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20 With no other business brought forth, meeting adjourned at 5:50PM.