Roxanne Maher

From: Jay Hartling <jhartling@ledyard.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 3:55 PM
To: Town Council Group
Cc: Board of Education; jpgush54@gmail.com
Subject: Re: JWL HVAC Project - Request for Additional Appropriation

Dear Members of the Town Council,

I want to express sincere appreciation for your continued dedication and proactive oversight of our essential school projects. The thorough work and clear communication provided by the Permanent Municipal Building Committee (PMBC) is greatly appreciated. I also appreciate the urgency that you are showing in addressing this need.

In response to the recent letter from the PMBC regarding the financial adjustments for the roofs and HVAC project at Juliet W. Long School, it is important to recognize that the town's prior planning and approval via referendum to bond up to $8.5 million comfortably accommodates our current projected town share. The projects were not broken out in the referendum, nor was there mention of the State reimbursement as an offset. Below is a clear breakdown of the updated financial information:

- Roofs Actual Expense: $6,085,050.00
- Expected Damages: $180,000.00
- JWL HVAC (Bid + 10% contingency): $3,475,000.00
- Committed State Reimbursement:($5,066,309.00)
- **Town Share/potential Bonding need: $4,673,741.00**

The total town share required, at $4,673,741.00, remains significantly below the authorized bonding limit of $8.5 million for all of these projects as approved by voters. Even considering the temporary 5% state holdback of $253,315.45, the financial obligations remain well within voter-approved limits. According to our Town Charter (Chapter VII, Section 14), it would appear that the referendum provides clear and sufficient authorization to proceed without further voter approval.

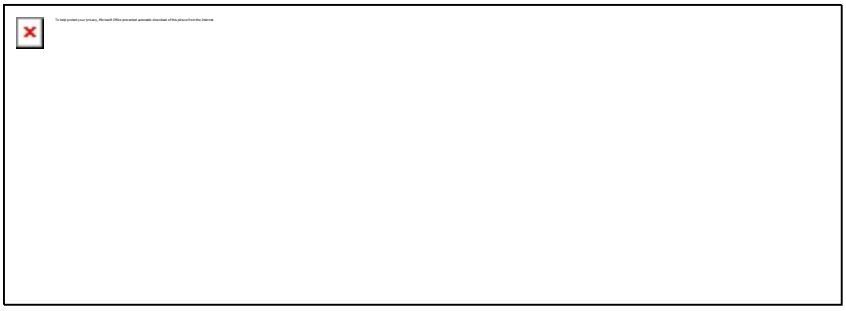
There seems to be confusion on why the town would need to go back to referendum when the town will be spending far less than the approved $8.5 million. Various town officials have given multiple explanations as we all try to understand this discrepancy and the need for a referendum. We have been told it was advised by Bond Council, a State requirement, cash flow issue and most recently that it was due to the Town Charter. It is important that we recognize that a path forward as soon as possible will enable us to move forward this year and avoid additional escalation in project costs.

Ensuring this project moves forward in a timely manner in the best interests of our students, staff and taxpayers. It is also potentially misleading/confusing to the community as we're now looking at adding this to the referendum and asking for significantly more than the actual costs to the Ledyard Taxpayer.

Thank you again for your diligence and proactive leadership.

Respectfully,

Jason S. Hartling
Superintendent
Ledyard Public Schools
"Believing in the unlimited potential of every student"



My working hours may vary from your working hours. Unless it is an identified emergency, please do not feel obligated to respond outside of your work schedule.