

Roxanne Maher

From: William Saums
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2023 11:37 AM
To: Andra Ingalls (aningalls@yahoo.com); Timothy Ryan; Roxanne Maher; Matthew Bonin
Cc: Kevin J. Dombrowski; Fred Allyn, III; Jason S. Hartling (JHartling@Ledyard.net); Donaldson Wayne (wdonaldson@ledyard.net)
Subject: JWL/GFS HVAC Grant
Attachments: Juliet Long HVAC Grant information.docx; Juliet Long_Estimate_KEHES_29Nov22.pdf

Andra, Tim, Roxanne, Matt:

I met with Superintendent Hartling and Facilities Director Donaldson this morning, where they briefed me with an update to the JWL/GFS HVAC project. As you may recall, we applied to the state for a grant, but it was rejected by the state. This morning I learned the reason: the state now requires full ventilation systems, and our design utilized split systems, which would have been less expensive. The difference is that split systems recirculate air, while full ventilation (traditional) AC systems use outside air, cool it, and distribute it throughout the building. That's important in two ways: air handling standards and requirements are changing due to recent experience during the pandemic, and, because carbon dioxide can build to unsafe levels when air is recirculated in buildings. High CO2 levels make kids sleepy! Did not know that, but it makes total sense. Further, there is legislation being proposed that requires schools to close when inside air temperature reaches a certain point. This cost could be substantial in future years if it passes, and it likely will.

The state is reopening bids for grants this month (date not determined), and Jay and Wayne anticipate the application period will be open for 30-60 days. Unfortunately, the cost for the new design, not surprisingly, is much higher: \$2.2 million, and our matching funds contribution goes up from the previously budgeted \$400,000 to \$845,000.

The good news is that the state recently passed legislation to allow federal and other grant funds to qualify as matching funds, so we can apply for other grants to support the financial burden. The Superintendent has already been in touch with Senator Osten, and in my opinion, we have a good case. The roof project is being held up by the rejection of the original HVAC proposal, and rightly so: we don't want to put a new roof on and then tear it up for new equipment. The roof is long overdue. Our anticipated reimbursement rate from the state is expected to be slightly higher than before.

Some other details: an engineering study has already been done, and we believe the roof can support the equipment. If not, the alternative is to put the equipment in an enclosure on the ground, so structural work is not anticipated. Ducting at JWL will be an issue because the building is older, uses hot water heat, and there is little room between the ceiling and the roof structure. GFS has some ducting, but not enough because it uses a combination of radiant heat and forced hot air. The cost estimate is attached.

I'm sending you this email to provide background because I will be out of town during our next finance meeting on August 16, and by that time the application period could already be open. Wayne has prepared preliminary language for three resolutions (attached), and I'm hopeful Roxanne can draft them into actionable resolutions for you to act upon, and that you will have a quorum for the meeting so we can get the resolutions to the town council the week following.

Roxanne, I'm in the office through Friday of this week if you need me to review anything.

Thank you all.

-Bill Saums
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