

Fairgrounds Subcommittee

Tuesday, January 16, 2018 - 11:00 am

Shaun Gilliland - Chairman

Chairman Gilliland called this Task Force to order at 11:20 am with the following in attendance: Shaun Gilliland, Charlie Harrington, Ron Jackson, Steve McNally, Mike Mascarenas, Jim Monty, Randy Preston, and Ike Tyler. Dan Manning had been previously excused and Chris Garrow was absent.

Also present: Jim Dougan, and Dina Garvey

GILLILLAND: So a couple of things to bring up on the fairgrounds that I want to talk on today was, first of all, as you are aware the Agricultural Society, there's two grants out there in different stages for \$95,000.00 per and we have come before, well DPW has come before to allow it to proceed. The first one is a smaller covered riding arena down where the pulling ring is, right now and Jim has got a design and final budget that he is working on to put that together. And I will let Mike and Jim go through, but basically what we have to do is figure out, because the administration of the grant is by the County and Community Resources, but the recipient of the grant through Ag and Markets is the Agricultural Society, but the County owns the property, so you have a lessor and leasee relationship there. But, if I could just have Jim kind of talk with Mike, kind of talk with the process that we're going to step through to execute the funding portion of it and the construction and then following that, the first one. The second \$95,000.00 grant that we will have to go in for, is for the construction of a, agricultural show ring, essentially. Currently when they do agricultural shows at the fair, you know cattle and small animals and things like that, they do it under a tent. So, it's kind of a consolidation of having a public viewing area of like the small animals, the babies and things like that and show ring and some blenchers and things like that with electricity, etc., so the public has a centralized area that they come and watch these shows, because it's all about bringing agriculture and education. We're kind of looking at one as kind of a two or three phase build-out. The initial build-out probably would just be the initial one, but the longer, the initial show ring and etc., and seating, but eventually what they would also like to do is develop, is move the milking parlor in there, so people can see how the animals are actually milked, you know from the dairy industry in the County and then probably the third tier after that would be a birthing center under the same roof. There's special rules in birthing centers and stuff, you have to have vets on call, you have to have 24/7 observance and things like that, so that's down the road. So, that's kind of the way that the Ag Society would push to build those facilities. So, I would like Mike and Jim to kind of talk to the mechanics.

MASCARENAS: Yeah, I can do the logistics of the requirements of the grant, I guess, which kind of takes us to how we have to handle it as a County. Shaun touched on it briefly, the recipient of the grant is the Ag Society. We initially tried to do it, so the County would be the recipient being that it is our property, but that wasn't allowed. So, to make a long story short, I think what we can do and what I would recommend is that we simply do a budget amendment

with the Ag Society and a contract with them directly in order to increase our revenue and appropriations by the amount of each grant and simply provide the funds for them to complete the work on the front end and then give us the reimbursement when it comes back. So, if we contract that with them we'll then be able to have that contract to hold them to that repayment of the funds that we give out in the front. They're not going to have it, so that's the only solution that I can think of. I mean \$200,000.00 for the Ag Society is a lot of money. It's a lot of money for the County too, but it is just impossible of them to reach. So, by increasing our revenue and appropriation you can guarantee that you're going to get your money back upon receipt. But, I can't think of any other way to logistically get it done, being that they aren't going to have the money to pay the bill when the construction's done. So, essentially we would be like a sub-recipient of them for those grant dollars. Does that make sense to everybody?

MCNALLY: Is this something that the County, the DPW is going to build, a lot of the work on this?

DOUGAN: Very potentially we're going to have to do quite a bit of the work on it. It's a pre-engineered metal building, it's roughly 60 foot wide by 120 foot long. The technical specs are already done, what we're going to put out to bid is, the base bid is going to be just supplying all the materials for the pre-engineered structural steel building with engineering calculations for us to design footing, foundations ourselves with an alternate, two alternates, one would be to install the steel on our foundation and the final alternate would be to take it soup to nuts, just so we know the value of all of it. But, with \$96,000.00 and with what we're, we talked to a couple of different vendors, they're expecting the structural steel, pre-engineered to be around \$60,000.00 in materials, so it doesn't leave us a lot of money to get the rest of it done. But, if we can do some grade beams and concrete like that, we can probably buy all those materials for the rest of the grant and then it's going to be all DPW labor.

MCNALLY: This will be just a dirt floor; right?

DOUGAN: Yes

MONTY: The building will end up being owned by and maintained by the County; correct?

MASCARENAS: I think that's what our rules kind of, we went on, we should probably review those, maybe at another meeting, but Shaun developed a pretty good set of rules.

MONTY: Right

MCNALLY: Anything on the County property was going to be owned by the County.

MONTY: Understood

JACKSON: Yeah, has to be.

MCNALLY: Well, it wasn't for years.

JACKSON: Oh, I know that. We're still suffering from that.

MONTY: My only concern is now, this isn't going to be a building that ends up being a storage shed, is it?

JACKSON: It will be in the winter, probably.

MONTY: Naw...

GILLILLAND: I mean that's a policy decision basically what we're looking at is by getting this covered arena and stuff like that is to expand the seasons for the activities can be there.

MONTY: Absolutely, I have no problem with agricultural activities being there, I just don't want to see it end up being another storage facility down there.

MCNALLY: For horses

MONTY: Not just horses. Any Ag event, you know could have, maybe Dave Reckahn wants to do something undercover in the winter with his dogs, I don't know.

GILLILLAND: There are a lot of possibilities to do under there.

MONTY: That's what it needs to be. I hope that we stick to it.

MASCARENAS: So, you're not talking about the private people that were going in there, previously, and just sticking whatever?

MONTY: I'm talking about anybody. I mean I am even talking the County.

MASCARENAS: You're talking about you don't want it open to cars and boats and those types of things?

MONTY: Exactly

MASCARENAS: Okay

MONTY: That is what I'm talking. You know I would want to see it, if we're going to spend the money, set it up, we set it up so it can be used year around by the Ag Society for agricultural programs.

GILLILLAND: And others

MONTY: And other, right.

MCNALLY: But, not just storage.

MONTY: Not just storage.

JACKSON: Are you going to have heat in there of some type, if you're going to use it in the winter?

GILLILLAND: No, it does cover you from snow and rain.

MCNALLY: And that's adequate, that size for an indoor arena?

DOUGAN: Well, it covers, it covers the existing arena. It's actually around 25 longer than the current small arena.

MCNALLY: 60x100, is it?

DOUGAN: 60x120 and that allows us to get to some bleachers under one end.

MCNALLY: No, that's fine.

GILLILLAND: And my daughter works at Crane Mountain where they just put up a hoop house there underneath and the demand for people to go and ride under there, over there is tremendous.

MONTY: Yup

GILLILLAND: I think this will get a lot of use, because people are out riding in this kind of weather, and I think there will be more activities, personally, from my experience and my family's experience.

MCNALLY: Well, they have indoor jackpot rodeos all over the place in the wintertime. People that own the hardware store in North Creek, they have an indoor arena at their house and they have rodeos there all winter. They have two or three different rodeos, they call them jackpots, but you know barrel racing and stuff like that.

JACKSON: Use horse trailers and bring them in and then take them out.

MONTY: Would there be policy developed specifically for that Shaun, for that arena?

GILLILLAND: Oh yeah, build it in.

MONTY: A use policy?

GILLILLAND: Yeah, still booked through the County and things like that.

MONTY: Right, right

TYLER: I'm not part of the Committee, but that might bring up the aspect, one of the questions that I had here today, was I remember when I first got on the Board here and I have been coming to these meetings, that the insurance issue was going to be addressed and I thought it was addressed, you know for different things, like Mom and Pops, or for more usage at the fair. I have come to find out that nothing has changed, I went to ask Lynn what the insurance requirements were and the same forms that have been here for 100 years. My understanding was that Dan Manning was supposed to come up with more, maybe similar to Clinton County insurance, why theirs is used so much and ours is not. I am being told that nothing been done in that.

GILLILLAND: That is probably true.

TYLER: So, if you're talking about this building, that is going to house horses and whatever, you know you want people to come and use it and collect money well you better have a little more user friendly insurance plan than what we have now, because now it's not user friendly at all.

MCNALLY: Three phone calls to the three different counties around probably could pretty much sum up what we need to do.

TYLER: Oh sure and not only that I found out depending on who you are, different insurance requirements. So, I mean

MASCARENAS: I can't speak to it, but

TYLER: My next phone call was going to be, we just had a fair committee meeting last week, was going to be to two other counties and find out exactly what they do. I think I've done this once before with Clinton and I have brought it to the County, to maybe look at, because if we're going to have that facility and you want people to use we got to loosen up a little bit here.

MONTY: Who makes that judgment?

MASCARENAS: Well, that's just it.

GILLILLAND: We're overly cautious in Essex County and we know that and Dan Manning is overly cautious. He wants everybody covered when we're there and we've had that discussion here, that we're going to reset our insurance, basically the policy we want to put forward is going to be that, if you are doing something there that doesn't require any other permit, i.e., a Department of Health permit, a Department of Labor permit or some other State agency's permit then there would be no requirement for additional insurance and that's what we've talked about

here, so, the Mom and Pop, the embroidery seller, those kinds of things, etc., because we are already well insured in the County for any other activities. Currently, if somebody wants to ride a horse on the fairgrounds and ride around and stuff like that, you know it's an open County facility. You want to walk around, you want to walk your dog, anything else on there.

MCNALLY: It's under the umbrella.

GILLILLAND: It's the under umbrella, so quite literally we just have to formalize that with the policy that goes up before the Board. And I do agree, we're limiting ourselves by being overly cautious and trying to put every other insurance policy in front of us when at any time somebody walks on those grounds and gets bitten by someone else's dog, we're going to have it. So, we're overly cautious for no reason.

MCNALLY: I think to be competitive you have to have pretty much the same rules and regulations as the existing fairgrounds, Washington County, Clinton County and didn't seem like to me...

GILLILLAND: But, it also depends on who owns those fairgrounds.

MCNALLY: Right

MASCARENAS: Right

MCNALLY: It would be interesting to see, but I believe there's a lot of information out there.

JACKSON: But, that is why they have the umbrella.

MCNALLY: I don't think we need to reinvent the wheel on this, I think there's going to be some pretty good information on there.

MASCARENAS: I think we too, though, need to remain flexible and being able to make decisions on things too, you know you never know what's going to come up or you have an opportunity to get an event or something like that and if the insurance is the deciding factor that's prohibitive.

TYLER: It's not very flexible right now.

MASCARENAS: No, we should be able to, even as this group, I would think, at least assess that scenario and make a recommendation to the where's and whys it should happen or shouldn't happen for whatever reason. So, yeah I think we're all in agreement that that's been problematic, you know where someone comes in to sell vegetables and they're going to make \$50.00/\$60.00, not it's not realistic and that's where we're losing a lot of those events that people.

GILLILLAND: Like some of them like the 4H, the County 4H, no matter what the County umbrella is, they're still required under their own charter to carry their own insurance under their insurance rules, so you're going to run into some of those like that.

TYLER: The Harvest Fest, they used the Agricultural's, they were told by the Agricultural, that well we have insurance, so you might as go on with us.

GILLILLAND: The Ag Society?

TYLER: The Ag Society, yeah. So, in doing so, I'm hearing, you know that there's more hoops that they got to jump through that the Ag Society is demanding on them that they have to do. I mean it's just one layer of another layer of overseeing what down there and my question to them was why did they have that, because they were told that they had to have insurance policy for what they were doing down there.

MONTY: My question would be why is the Ag Society, it's Essex County, the Ag Society shouldn't have anything to do with that.

MASCARENAS: Well, the Ag Society is signing on as the use of facilities for that event.

TYLER: So, they can use their insurance.

MASCARENAS: Right, that's exactly what's happening.

MONTY: But, they should still run it through the County.

GILLILLAND: Did the Harvest Fest have employees? Were they actually paying anybody out of anything?

TYLER: No

MASCARENAS: Yeah, sometimes that is the way it happens. What used to happen a lot of times was the Ag Society, before we got the facility back, would provide a rider to anybody who wanted to use it on their current policy.

MONTY: I guess my question would be during the Harvest Fest, did they provide the County, did they notify the County that they had allowed them to come in on a rider; I guess?

GILLILLAND: Because I don't know anything about that.

MASCARENAS: I don't know the answer to that.

MONTY: They ain't got no right to do that without offering that to us, telling us that they are allowing them to come in.

MASCARENAS: Yeah, typically Dan likes something from every vendor there, regardless of who they are.

GILLILLAND: Right

JACKSON: It's crazy

MONTY: But, I don't know, if the Ag Society is saying okay, they just need to tell us, okay, we've got a rider here, here they are, because we're the owner of the property.

GILLILLAND: I'll find out. I've never ever heard of that and I'm on the Board, that that was going on, so I mean, that's a problem.

TYLER: They asked me and said why did we have to that, I said I don't know, I'll find out.

GILLILLAND: Well, I mean under the rules we're proposing, you know and the Harvest Fest, some of those vendors are required other State licenses.

TYLER: I agree, but a lot of them don't

GILLILLAND: A lot of them don't

TYLER: The food vendors and things like that.

MASCARENAS: The food vendors.

GILLILLAND: If they're cooked foods and things like that they need a Department of Health and then they're going to have to be covered.

TYLER: I understand that, I understand that. I think they understand that too.

HARRINGTON: Don't they have their own.

GILLILLAND: They should.

MCNALLY: I'm not on this Committee, but I've been on the Board of four years now and I'll tell it's just saying that this is the first time in four years, I mean what started off when I first come on to the Board was a shithole down there has turned into a wonderful facility that's getting a lot more usage and it looks like it's continuing and I think the Fair group should be very proud of themselves.

The point is in four years that place has come from a dumping ground to a classy establishment and I can see it moving forward.

MONTY: Well, there's more communication. I mean I've only been on the Board two years, but we seem to meet more regularly and there seems to be communication. Everything starts with communication.

MCNALLY: Moving the dump off there was a big step.

TYLER: You know, being from, you know seeing that every day on a day to day basis down there, you're right, in the last even longer than that, six years maybe or even a little longer. That is a great thing down there and being a great thing that we have to make it user friendly, so people can use that great thing.

MCNALLY: I mean they got some successful events there, but on the other, my other observation, not being on the committee is, you know we still have that elephant in the room, what to do with that building down there and something's got to be done with that, sooner or later.

GILLILLAND: Well, we can move on to that as the second one, I'll find out about this insurance stuff and I do promise that I will get this draft policy together. I apologize for not having it done sooner.

PRESTON: Yeah, but not to mention, the last I checked the County Attorney works for us.

GILLILLAND: Yup

PRESTON: And, yeah, okay, I'm sorry, go ahead.

GILLILLAND: I don't know when the closing is, going to be on the Lewis building yet. I will go upstairs, immediately after this and find out when that is. But, Jim, can you kind of identify what, following up with Steve's thing, about if and when they move, when they move, essentially, out and we establish this, what the initial plan of attack will be.

DOUGAN: If both Cornell and Soil and Water are out of the building, PESH was there a couple of months ago and they did a report on the electric as our primary concern. We're going to go through and first of all, not occupying the second floor we're going to remove many of the circuits that go to the second floor, right away, so that we don't have to worry about that. At least pull them out of the panel, so they aren't energized and aren't a fire risk. Everything on the first floor, where we might to choose to use that during, spring, summer and fall, we're doing to do some grounding upgrades to all the electrical, right now, just with our forces. We're not planning on spending a lot of money, just enough, so that you could put people in there safety with the electric and then the skirting around of the outside of that building, because it's, it was really built on piers. There's no vapor barrier, there's nothing underneath, so what we're going to do, because you're not going to use it in the winter, we're going to pull that skirting off to allow ventilation to go through that building and so that those floor joist, those floor members aren't rotting away from the moisture. We're going to look at the worse areas for some small roof

repairs, and some small, mostly it's more flashing than its even roof and try to seal up some of those things to just make it so that building doesn't deteriorate anymore; okay? And then make the first floor, so that you could choose to use the first floor during the fair and during other events, during spring, summer and fall and from there, I guess it's apply for other grants.

MASCARENAS: Well, that is what I was going to say. I think from our group, probably is where it should originate, is we need to know what the Board wants? What is the long term plan for that building? We did put in for a grant application that was unsuccessful. So, we don't have any money aside, right now, in the budget for that, so some of those things that you are going, you know is minimal, but I think to have a long term plan for that building is probably what we need to do going forward, so we can plan for it accordingly.

MCNALLY: Is it going to be a three season building?

TYLER: That is what my question was.

MCNALLY: Because once you find out what you're...

TYLER: Is it etched in stone that it's going to three season building?

GILLILLAND: No, I mean there's nothing etched in stone and I don't think this Board, I don't think our Board of Supervisors has made the final policy decision about that. The move portion of it was to move it out, move them out and alleviate the PESH concerns and the safety issues and things. So, we'll have to move forward.

MASCARENAS: I think the grant is the reason why that hasn't been decided, quite frankly. I mean you have to two grants out there, totally almost a million dollars. I think if you had got that the Board more likely were to say, let's rehabilitate it, because money is always the first question that someone asks.

TYLER: I would like to speak for the people that it immediately affects down there. I would hope that in the long term plan would be to have a four season building there, I would hope, long term.

MASCARENAS: There is nothing saying that you can't take another crack at it.

MONTY: When we started looking at this, we developed a plan of what needed to be done, of what should be done first, second, up through. Do we want to look at maybe coming up with a five year plan, a seven year plan where the option is to turn it into a four season building; possibly? Obviously, we know what it's going to cost us doing it right now; \$2.5 million. We can't afford that, but can we afford looking forward to say, let's put \$200,000.00 into that next year; \$250,000.00 into that next year? Set a plan, yes, it's going to cost us more in the end, yet we're budgeting for it for certain, we budget for the foundation this year, we budget for the electric, whatever the order that we need to do this work in until we may get it back to a building.

DOUGAN: There is one other piece that I would need to know in order to help you develop you develop that and that is what are you going to use it for?

MONTY: Obviously, yeah

DOUGAN: Are you going to put office, again, on the second floor? Because if you're going to put offices again in the second floor...

MONTY: Then we've got to look at an elevator.

DOUGAN: Then there's a lot of cost there.

MONTY: Yup

DOUGAN: Are you going to use it as storage? I mean the Town of Essex, their building, they don't go up on the second floor other than for storage; why? Because it would be the same kind of an issue.

TYLER: I can tell you Jim, every conversation I heard on this Board is that they're going to need more office space here at the County. They're always looking for a spot. So, why we can't just fix up the spot that the County already owns instead of buying more spots? I would think that in the long term if it's planned out right, you don't jump through the grant process and you're putting a little bit at a time, you don't have to jump through all those hoops going through a grant, that that building down the road, could be fixed up on a long term basis, where it could have offices in there again. The County is in need of more offices, not less as it goes.

DOUGAN: Again, a decision, if you're going to have a five or seven year plan, you have to know what you're going to use the building for.

MCNALLY: Kitchens are very expensive, I just want to add that.

PRESTON: But, I agree like, because I think we should come up with a plan and you go a little bit at a time. Again, I mean we've all known from day one that \$2. Whatever million, it's just not feasible. But, there's nothing that says we can't still keep looking for grants and do a little bit each year to try and get it back. I personally think the building's worth saving.

MCNALLY: You got to save the building.

DOUGAN: If you are thinking about everything else that we're doing to make the place attractive, to bring events in to make a popular venue, that's one more step that should be considered along the way.

GILLILLAND: Yeah, it can't just there.

MCNALLY: It comes down to, you're never going to finish, unless you get a start on it and you can't start without a plan.

MASCARENAS: Well, I think we got a good plan on the repairs, but I think, yeah, that piece is critical on it.

MCNALLY: I think something should come in front of the Full Board, here's our five year plan for that building, we're going to build it into a three or four season and this is what it's going to be used for and that's the first start and the that second start is how much can we fund a year. You know, can we put a \$100,000.00 in that building or can we put, and then wait for funding as we go along.

MONTY: And as we go along apply for these grants that pop up.

MCNALLY: Well, right now you could ask the Board and no one knows what's going on.

GILLILLAND: So, Jim can we throw that tasking on your plate?

MCNALLY: He'll have it for you Friday.

DOUGAN: Yup

JACKSON: It's like in your Towns, if you have a comprehensive plan when you apply for a grant, you can say I'm trying to get this, this is our plan and it's mentioned that we want this and it helps you a lot of getting grants and stuff like that. If you don't have a comprehensive plan, which is kind of what we're talking about then you aren't going to get the grant, but if you show that this is your plan that you want to get from here to here, not to say that you'll even get there, but if you don't have a plan and something that the Board is supporting when you're never going to get the money and you never will get there.

TYLER: We already started with these guys with that comprehensive plan. I think that, you as a Supervisor you go out and get comprehensive plans and you're looking at a \$100,000.00, but in this case it's not going to be that way, because we have people on board that can make that comprehensive plan without having to spend a big chunk in money.

MASCARENAS: Those planning documents, on a legislative side, you had a lot of that in your grant application, you really did. You have your group in Westport and I forget the name and I apologize, but they site the fairgrounds, because that was a Department of State thing, that's where we went after them. The plan that Jim and Todd provided was outstanding. Those are good things that those grading agencies look for. The issue really is money, at the end of the day Parks and Rec; we're not seeing a lot of those dollars come back to the North Country, we're just not.

MCNALLY: The only thing we're getting is DEC, pretty much.

MASCARENAS: Yeah, we're getting a lot of DEC money.

TYLER: Isn't true, other counties are getting that money, but us?

MCNALLY: Nothing north of Albany.

TYLER: What grant is it that Clinton is getting all of the grants and we're not getting any?

MASCARENAS: I can look at that, I think it's waterfront development.

TYLER: That's it

MASCARENAS: Which is where we went after the other funding source.

MCNALLY: Yeah, we're not getting anything in the North Country for anything, but DEC.

MASCARENAS: Yeah, there's a big disconnect and the issue that I have with that is when you talk to the Parks and Rec folks, is they want everything up here to be historic preservation. You know they want us to do a historical preservation district here and there and everywhere else.

JACKSON: That building is historic preservation.

MASCARENAS: It already is.

JACKSON: Yup

MASCARENAS: But, the issue is there is a huge liability with those structures when funding is not readily available, so to continue as a County or a Town, to continue to look at historic preservation as a real option, knowing that the costs to have these facilities is part of your operations and maintenance is huge and you're getting any support from the very folks that are encouraging you to do so is problematic. So, I think legislatively it doesn't make a lot of sense.

MONTY: Does sound like indigent defense, does it?

MASCARENAS: I think we need a push a little bit for some of those dollars to start coming.

TYLER: I think a long term game plan will go a long ways with this legislative body to do something down there.

MCNALLY: Now Westport, the Town of Westport doesn't want that building? (Laughter)

DOUGAN: Let's go back to the elevator for just a second. Do you think the Board, this group would be willing to look at an elevator that was actually, shaft and everything was built, but meant to blend into the outside of the building, rather than try to put it on the inside?

TYLER: You can put a lift in there. Westport, we put our lift in our town for less than \$30,000.00.

DOUGAN: I am following you, okay, but the reason I am asking you that is, I am trying to help you spend small amounts of money while your plan still evolves of what you're going to use it for.

MONTY: But, before we put that in Jim, shouldn't we decide if we're going to use the upstairs for offices? Or you think that we would need it?

DOUGAN: Because I don't think you're going to tell me what you're going to use it for when you want me to start recommending work on it. That's why I'm asking. I can take the existing foundation and we can go in and we can upgrade that foundation, one wall, two walls, all the walls; okay? And have a foundation for, that could be used as a three story or a four story or a three season or four season building. But, putting an elevator on the inside of it, after that?

JACKSON: Destroy it, yeah.

DOUGAN: Even a lift after that.

MCNALLY: You can put it on the backside of the building and you would never see it.

DOUGAN: That is what I am asking you, if that's a plan that you're asking me to start working on, would you, while you're determining what you're going to use for...

GILLILLAND: I say ADA compliant at the lowest cost.

MCNALLY: And then \$800.00 a year keeping your elevator maintained.

MONTY: You could blend it in.

DOUGAN: You could blend it in on the outside.

TYLER: I think the word elevator and lift are too different things we're looking at. Lift is a lot, you're not talking the money you are for a lift, that you are for an elevator.

MCNALLY: Can people use a wheelchair on that?

TYLER: That's what you use it for, that's what it's for. We had to put one in our town hall and it's for people in wheelchairs to go down to our court.

JACKSON: Yup

GILLILLAND: But there's other structural issues upstairs, too, that we have there as well.

MCNALLY: Once that building's empty you're going to...

TYLER: I don't think there's an issue with that Jim, as long as you make it blend in with the building, I don't think there's a big issue with that.

DOUGAN: I think if you're going to do this slow with your own money and not tackle a \$2 million project and yet you don't know for sure what you're going to use it for then we have to have some of those, we have to pretty much agree that this, that if we do need an elevator that that's how we're going to do it in the future.

JACKSON: If you don't have an elevator then you can't use that upstairs for so many things.

DOUGAN: Pretty much.

TYLER: You are restricting yourself.

MONTY: Because we're not ADA compliant.

JACKSON: I mean when it was originally built they were sleeping up there. Well, we can't do that at this day and age, but it should be some use and almost any use, you've got to have handicapped accessible

TYLER: I don't think we should restrict ourselves when we're moving ahead.

MCNALLY: And you know just because you get denied this year, there could possibly be funding next year or the year after.

PRESTON: Well, we've got to figure out what the hot topic is. It's drinking water this year.

MASCARENAS: That's true

MCNALLY: It is, that and salt sheds, salt sheds are very popular this year, too.

DOUGAN: Because of drinking water.

JACKSON: Exactly, same issue.

MCNALLY: No, but look at the amount of salt sheds that got, even throughout the State. They got funded.

GILLILLAND: So, Jim you're going to try and work up, kind of a long range plan on doing this, bootstrapping this project ourselves with the phased approach.

DOUGAN: Yup

GILLILLAND: And once, we will go forward with the getting the budget, getting everything into Ag and Markets and the construction plan and the budget in Ag and Markets to get approval for contracting and then we'll come back to the Board to do the budget amendment with the Ag Society, if that's okay with everybody here? And then following that, then we'll probably move forward with the Ag education facility that I briefed a little bit earlier, doing to same thing, but to follow up on and there is going to be a third round as well, eventually. So, you know unless it gets eaten up in this \$4 billion budget gap, but we should be able to move forward with a 3rd project and one of the big things that we do have is an electrical load issue down there; which maybe is expensive.

TYLER: If this was a historic district, as opposed to just a historic building would that improve the chances for grants?

MASCARENAS: I want to say that the whole area is historic. I think it is a district.

TYLER: Because we're in a process now and maybe Westport is not yet.

MASCARENAS: I think that area is though, isn't it Jim?

TYLER: That building is, maybe. But, the Town has been working for 10 years to do a historic district in the whole town and it just lacks a few little paperwork things that have been stuck down in Albany I think that might improve.

JACKSON: Floral Hall is part of that

MCNALLY: Who is the Senator down in Long Island down there that's the head of the historic preservation? What's he's name? He comes up here on some of the projects? I don't know what his name is, but he might be somebody to reach out to on this.

HARRINGTON: In regards to the Lewis structure and the movement, I talked to the Executive Director, last night, from Cooperative Extension. He said that he has found a site where he can purchase workstations at far, far below the going rate. He's very happy about that. He also stated that was some freeze ups in the old structure, but it didn't create any problems and he believes that's been rectified. I personally can't wait until the personnel is out of that building, because it's just not going to be good, if we don't take the bull by the horns and get them the hell out of there. All you got to do is go in that structure on a monthly basis and you'll, every time you go there you see something else that is just nothing but a hazard. So, the sooner that we get out of there the better.

MONTY: Charlie, so you know, the Town of Lewis has 5, almost brand new work stations that we've donated to the, they're going to try and put them together.

HARRINGTON: That maybe what he was quoting to me, I don't know. But I do know that he's satisfied with that.

DOUGAN: Rick and I have been working together and we're going to try and go back into the building on Monday, he's back in town, Monday, next week. I got a key coming and someone opened up the building again, so we can kind of finalize what his needs are. He did think that he had a real good line through the United Way up in Plattsburgh and I think some equipment left over from Wyeth and those areas for some of these cubicles. He thought his people would work fine in those cubicles. I do think that we should upgrade the electrical service from a 100 amp panel to a 200 amp panel. I've already got an equipment budget materials list from Buildings and Grounds staff, so as soon as we close on that building we intend to do that and he didn't feel that he needed many other things other than these cubicles and us to run electric and telephone and cable.

JACKSON: When is the closing?

GILLILLAND: We don't know yet. It is coming close, but I don't have a date yet.

DOUGAN: It's only \$1,200.00 in material that would upgrade that to a 200 amp.

MONTY: I spoke to Craig Nicholson from the Realtor for the Jehovah Witnesses and he said that everything is on Mr. Manning's desk waiting.

GILLILLAND: I will take care of that when I go upstairs here in a second.

HARRINGTON: Also the Cooperative Extension Board will have a new president, right off. There's been some contentious activities, previously and I do believe that they'll be in a far more positive light going forward. I don't think we'll be looking for any arguments or push backs or what have you. We'll have a cooperative line, I hope.

GILLILLAND: Anything else to come before this Board?

HARRINGTON: One other thing. I went to the Westport Hotel for an event and left my raincoat there and went back and picked it up and the gentleman who owns that, had stated that he had utilized the racetrack previously and that he wanted to revisit that.

TYLER: He doesn't own it.

HARRINGTON: Hun?

TYLER: He doesn't own the Hotel.

HARRINGTON: He doesn't?

TYLER: No

HARRINGTON: Okay

MONTY: And there's a long story there, Charlie.

HARRINGTON: I know there's a long story there, but I just wanted to be, have it all refreshed that we want to listen to him or we want to stay as far away as possible.

GILLILLAND: He talks to me whenever I'm in there and he can only pay us cash to the County, because he bounced so many checks.

MCNALLY: That sounds like a good business partner (laughter).

GILLILLAND: He's had a number of issues there. He has asked me how, he has asked me what my opinion is, the way forward to bring racing, you know harness racing back into Essex County and what I told him was, is that in my opinion you will never have horses stay there long term again and that, but it is a good idea for us develop that facility for the use by harness racing. So, my suggestion to him was if he wants to take action to it, to go out and get some people and form a harness racing society of some prominent people within the County and develop, you know, I mean I didn't say this, but some adult supervision to have a society of people that would come to the Board and say, yeah we would like to promote harness racing in the County and use the facilities. So, it's not just one and so we don't run into the same problems and illegalities that we had before.

MASCARENAS: And for those of you that weren't on the Board when we dealt with this and my office was dealing with it first hand, you spend an awful lot of time chasing people around for minimal return on your investment. It was month in month out not getting paid and the flip side of that, as we were starting to remediate the actual fairgrounds and take care of some of things, Buildings and Grounds has also done a lot of work on those barns.

TYLER: So, has the inmates and the officers.

MONTY: A couple of officers.

MASCARENAS: And when you have horses in there, long term, like we had, there's a lot of destruction that gets done to your facility. When you're not getting payment for the use of that facility then the repair falls back on your taxpayers. So, I think, I would just hate to go down that road again. So, I appreciate your answer, because that was exhausting, chasing that around.

GILLILLAND: I mean I like harness racing. I love to watch harness racing and stuff like that, too. I mean just because I think it's a beautiful thing, but if the people in the County want to promote harness racing, let them organize and promote harness racing.

MASCARENAS: And I don't think we had any more or less harness racing then when we were chasing them around. It's not like they were working outside of the fair.

TYLER: Along with those same lines, Shaun, I just have one brief thing. You said if the people of the County want to have that, I have a committee in Westport that is willing to do work and they have done a lot of work towards the fair and they've been asking me for a while now to come to this Committee, just one of them, to do a short presentation on what they, probably would be willing to do and what they have done and just to let you guys know what is going on with this committee and I was hoping maybe the next meeting I can get one person here to do sort of a presentation on that.

GILLILLAND: It's alright with me, everybody else? Okay, so next meeting, you can invite them.

TYLER: When is the next meeting?

GILLILLAND: The same, after the committees.

GARVEY: The same week as DPW.

MASCARENAS: The third Monday of the month.

TYLER: Next month?

GARVEY: Yes, every month.

TYLER: Thank you

GILLILLAND: Yes sir, anything else for this Committee? Okay, thank you very much.

**AS THERE WAS NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THIS TASK FORCE IT WAS
ADJOURNED AT 12:05 PM.**

Respectively Submitted,

Dina Garvey, Deputy Clerk
Board of Supervisors