

SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2013

5:30 PM IN ROOM 104

SHELTON CITY HALL
54 HILL STREET, SHELTON, CT

AGENDA

- **CALL OF THE MEETING/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Alderman Kudej called the meeting of the Board of Aldermen Special Finance Committee to order at 5:30 p.m. All those present stood and pledged allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Alderman Kudej, Chairman

Alderman Anglace

Alderman Simonetti

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Freeman Burr, Superintendent of Schools

Allan Cameron, BOE Finance Director

Ben Trabka, BOE Director of Security

Michael Maglione, Director of Public Safety & Emergency
Management Services

Thomas Taylor, City Human Resources

Gene Sullivan, City Purchasing Agent

Bernie Simons, Chairman of Public Improvement Building
Committee

Arthur Gaugran, Public Improvement Building Committee

Frances Macilvain, Public Improvement Building Committee

Mark Holden, Board of Education

Judson Crawford, Board of A&T

- AGENDA ITEM

1. SCHOOL SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS

Alderman Kudej MOVED to recommend to the Full Board to appoint the Public Improvement Building Committee to oversee school security improvements with funding to come from school security grant and the City of Shelton.

SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 3-0.

Discussion:

Alderman Anglace: In order to discuss this fully, we called this Special Meeting of the Finance Committee of the Board of Aldermen, because it has been called to our attention that there is a lot of concern among parents, and we thought the best way to expedite this project is to call it a priority project. Anything that can be done to expedite this project, please look for it. This project is of concern to parents; it is a concern to all of us in

the City. It is going to help bring us some security to a process that we are all aware of what had happened in Newtown; that is what we are dealing with here. It is a good way of going about it, it is a good of doing it and it is much needed. However, many times we have brought the Public Improvement Building Committee into projects and not explained to them in advance on what is going on. We thought that calling this meeting, asking the Board of Education to be here, along the Public Improvement Building Committee, the Purchasing Agent, etc., this would help to get everyone on the right foot. If we all hear the same thing and know the background, you can get a chance to ask any questions.

I asked Al and wrote down a few things; an outline of things that I think should be covered: the status of the grant, the Public Improvement Building Committee/ BOE to determine if it is necessary to determine if architectural services are needed and where you stand with that, to develop project specifications, whether the Purchasing Agent needs to go out for bid, and the Board of Aldermen to approve the funding. We are not going to put any money on the table until we go out to bid, because if we do that, that money that we would put on that table becomes the target and that is what they bid on. The State's share of the money: they are not going to pony it up until we complete the project, so we will take that money on a General Fund Surplus, use that and we will then make another motion once we know the funding. We have to approve the funding and we will make another motion to take the money out of there and put it back in there when it comes back from the State. The City's share will be bonded, and the Board of Aldermen will bond that. Both of these are priority projects, and the Board of Aldermen will expedite them. The Public Improvement Building Committee can tell us to move faster and we will do it. Then, of course, you would then have to determine a timeline for the project; what has to be done and who is going to do it.

Freeman Burr: Just before Allan speaks, just so that everyone understands the context of that grant that was submitted. We held a meeting during the summer with Mike Maglione, Ben Trabka, Jim Tortora, etc. What we looked at in terms of this grant was what else the City had on the agenda, and other things that we were doing. What we did not want to do when we submitted this grant was to duplicate other efforts. Keep in mind that that Mayor convened a committee shortly after the aftermath of Newtown, last year, to talk about a three-school project. It included Elizabeth Shelton School, Mohegan and Long Hill School. That was to reinforce the entryways, which we also found out we would be eligible for

reimbursement to do window change out, as well as exterior doors. These are all part of the upgrade, but do not go under the security grant.

Alderman Anglace: Is the Public Improvement Building Committee going to take all of those under that scope?

Freeman Burr: Correct, I would just like to provide a context for what we did here. The second thing was relative to an emergency request we have made to the Mayor last February; that was primarily for reinforcement. What that includes is state-of-the-art security film, and we worked collaboratively with the Shelton Police Department, etc. Security film is something that we legitimately must look at. It is a relatively low cost but it provides that kind of security, especially given that we have buildings in this city that are exposed in glass. Specifically, I mean Shelton High School: the bus way at Shelton High School, the wall of the front and side entrances and cafeteria at Perry Hill School, as well as the main entrance and cafeteria areas in the Shelton Intermediate School. That is a relatively low cost item, but when we sent this application in, we had several people around the table so we wanted to look at what the State would consider seriously to accept as a legitimate a project, and not to duplicate the other efforts that either the City or the Board of Education, that was already involved.

Ben, I do not know if you or Mike had anything else to add? I think that was pretty much the organization of our efforts.

Ben Trabka: Yes, I do agree with that.

Allan Cameron: I started and said that this grant was great; the context was three different things. First of all, people should understand that the assessment of the security risk at the schools was a very serious undertaking. It was done by the CT State Police, Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit; together with our local police, Fire Marshall, Building Inspector and with our Director of Emergency Management Services. So there was a lot of good, solid and analytical work that went into assessing on where the potential security risks were at the various schools. That same group came together and came up with evolved into a three-prong approach: the fortification that Freeman mentioned, using ballistic rated window film and stainless steel in the large areas of glass at Perry Hill School, Shelton Intermediate School and Shelton High School. Also, the stainless steel mesh would help protect doors where there is a window.

That was one thing, and then we realized the more involved the fortification for Elizabeth Shelton School, Mohegan School and Long Hill School was going to require an architectural firm to try to figure out these approaches because it is going to involve windows, doors, remediation of the windows and a technology and communications assessment to possibly work, to make sure every footing and communications could cross the system instantaneous. One of the goals here is to make sure that everything that is happening in the school is visible at the Police Department, Central Office and within multiple locations inside the schools.

Freeman Burr: These three schools were identified because since they have been built, there have been no window replacements, no exterior door change outs and obviously the front entry way fortification is something that when I met with Jim Tortora, the Mayor, the Chief of Police during the aftermath of Newtown; that was a concern because of those facilities.

Allan Cameron: The surveillance monitoring and communication, which we requested in this grant, was definitely envisioned to operate in concert with the fortification that we are working towards independently.

The next page is a security improvement grant. John asked me to give you a little history on that: the grant award is \$168,000 and the local match is \$298,000; the total cost is estimated around \$462,000. In order to be successful, the grant had to focus on a high priority need and it had to be something we can do in a reasonable amount of time. My hat is off to Mr. Maglione because he was very helpful in guiding us. We were concerned when we put in this grant request, that we would not be funded in the first round, and Mike was a good, critical thinker, who helped us revise the grant that we got to the front of the class. The grant is going to fund state-of-the-art camera surveillance systems at each of the five elementary schools. This priority was established by a group of people that said that we have to do all of those things together.

The facilities at each of the five elementary schools were installed after Columbine, in 1999. What they are, are cameras that monitor the door and report to a screen on the secretary's desk; that is the extent of it. There are no panic buttons; the police department cannot see it and there is no recording of it. When we did it in 1999, it was done with the best of intentions at the time and we thought it was a good thing to do. Now, with these days there are so many more capabilities once you put it on the

Internet. You can also see it at the same time in multiple locations, and that is what this grant is designed to accomplish.

So no one misunderstands, Shelton High School, Shelton Intermediate School and Perry Hill School all have newer security systems. The Shelton High School renovation period, Perry Hill and the Intermediate School are all new enough that they did not have that Columbine era. What we are worrying about is the five elementary schools.

The State requires that the project be publicly bid, so in order to put together the grant, we worked together with the committee to figure the priorities. We came up this priority for the surveillance and monitoring system. We worked with AST (Advanced Security Technologies): Tom Marino and his son, which are local residents that live in town. They are an incredible firm; they have done a lot of work in schools and in commercial technology. They have provided the initial conceptual information with us; we walked through the schools in which they saw the crevices in the corners, and all of the doors and things that needed to be monitored. They came up with some budgetary and conceptual information for us to write the grant. Due to the fact that this is some technology-type of information, we do not need to have architect drawings; we have gone to the State and received clarification on that. In order to expedite this thing, what we did is the Board supported us and told us to reach out to this guy that we are using and the City is using for the Shelton High School and Perry Hill renovation projects: Joe Desanti. He is a very experienced person in the area of school security and school construction. He is putting together a performance specification for us. We had a meeting last week, and he provided some preliminary work, met with our technology guy, Kenny LaCroix, and I and went over of what it is that he is putting together. We have a couple of more T's to cross and I's to dot; mostly we have to work out dates with Gene Sullivan and then we will be able to get something out to the public to bid. He feels like around two weeks with the concurrence of this committee, we can get this out to bid. We will have to develop a timeline to see what happens after that. The one thing that he did tell me on this kind of a project was to not have a drawing, so the bad guys cannot get under the Freedom of Information Act. What he suggested is a performance spec that is going to result in each different vendor firm, providing a slightly different solution to the same problem. He said that is going to be up to us to then evaluate which is the most effective for us, so it wouldn't necessarily be the low bid; it will just be the lowest responsible bid.

Freeman Burr: Whenever we do funding in schools, you know that there is a sense from our schools and staff that everything must be equal. This grant is not designed to be equal; this grant is designed to be equitable. We have different square footage in each of our schools. We also have schools with different layouts; some of our schools already had areas attached. This is not just an exterior camera for a 360-degree view; this is also internal as well. If you bid on some of our buildings, you know that our buildings have more obscure places where people could legitimately hide. So, this grant was done in a way that we assessed the level of need at each school. The first thing that is important to note is that everyone is not going to get the same amount of cameras in the same exact places, etc. I think that is one of the reasons why it is important to have any provider come in and tell us what they think what their best assessment is.

The second thing is that we had these cameras researched by our own technology people. These are state-of-the-art and web-based; these will last us in through the twenty-first century, unlike we put the things in Columbine, which to Allan's point, was the best we knew at that time. The systems now are totally obsolete and outdated. This provides us with something that is going to carry the school system forward in the future.

Allan Cameron: The word that they use for the future is "future-proof". I am not sure that you can "future-proof" everything, but at least that is the concept they were talking about.

Freeman Burr: Kevin Ahern, Chief Hurliman's commitment and Ben Trabka, with the number of walk-throughs that were done at each of these school sites in order to determine because we had to put something in the proposal that would be reasonably based on need, in order to have it ok'd and accepted. We did get feedback from the State that our proposal was one of the best-designed proposals that were submitted. I would be remiss if I said that me and Allan, or Allan and our tech guy- there are other people around the table that contributed in the effort to make sure that we were doing something that was in the right direction for the betterment, not only for our schools but for our kids and the Shelton community, as well.

Allan Cameron: I would like to echo what Freeman has just said because we received great support from Ben, Kevin, Mike, Joel and Jim Tortora, as well. It was great to see the whole community come together on something that is so important, such as school security. The other thing that I wanted to mention is that Freeman had said to me: "Allan, you have to be

concerned about the timeline, because the parents are concerned about the timeline". I've asked Joe Desanti about how he sees this project unfolding because we had put the grant in to be completed by December 2014. He thought that was absolutely do-able but he did say, "That it may take a while to get off the ground because people have to design something in order to respond to our request for quote, we have to have walk-throughs. We did brainstorm on how the walk-throughs should go because there are five different facilities and they are each individual so, they have to come up with a customized solution for each place. We talked about when we can do the walk-throughs, what will be the most effective way to do the walk-throughs, and then how to figure to give these people enough time to come up with a competitive proposal.

Alderman Anglace: Are you going to do RFP's?

Allan Cameron: Yes, so we haven't had that resolved, but Joe's caution to me was: "Don't be too aggressive on that. Give them time so they can be competitive enough to think about that they are facing the holidays". We would like to get a spec out in the next couple of weeks, but the next thing is that you get it out on the Monday of Thanksgiving week, what is going to happen? Not much, and over the Christmas holidays, what is going to happen? So he suggested to me to work on that, and he understands the urgency, but he also said, "do not over-commit".

Are there any questions?

Francis Macilvain: My only question is to clarify that the scope that is going to be on the five elementary schools that we are going to focus on?

Allan Cameron: Yes that is correct. That is what we got the grant for.

Freeman Burr: If you would keep in mind, originally, Shelton was not even considered as one of the priority districts. So the fact that we got funded in the first round was a huge step; but it does not preclude for going back in subsequent rounds if we needed additional security upgrades. Ben was using his contacts in the Department of Emergency Management. We thought we would get ours and all these other people would not. We thought if we had a good one, we would get funded and other people that were priority that didn't submit. As you know, the State is going back to ask for additional bond money because of the number of requests that went in.

I think that we were proactive on this. There was communication between myself and John and the Mayor to get the go-ahead to move forward. This would have been a tough thing for us to do, because without the support of this, we would probably be in the phasing, and the idea that we can get security cameras in our elementary schools that would maintain not only the outside but on the inside of the buildings is critical. The other things that were taken into consideration, again, I think this was contribution from Ben, Kevin and Mike, was if you think about some of our schools like Elizabeth Shelton. You can have a camera in the front, but not see where people would enter because if you consider where those driveways are or the side driveways; this grant took into consideration those obscure locations, and the need to have camera surveillance in those areas where people might be trying to drive in. I want to give everyone a sense of due diligence that was put in, and we relied on experts to help guide us through this process, and we found the experts right here in the Shelton community.

In regards to Advanced Systems Technologies, they did the most recent security upgrades for Sikorsky in the last three years. So as Allan said, Tom Marino is a local guy- and by the way, he offered his services gratis; he did not charge us anything to go through the locations.

Allan Cameron: He and his son went through every school, walked around every school, had drawings of each school and looked at all of the nooks and crannies.

Freeman Burr: We feel good about the local talent and resources that were able to produce this.

Alderman Simonetti: My question is the entryways. Is that going to go forward?

Freeman Burr: The three- school project?

Allan Cameron: We have architectural proposals; we have not interviewed the architects.

Freeman Burr: Now that the election is over, because the Mayor did want to sit down with us when we met with these people. I think we will start moving much quicker now. The cameras in those buildings would not be installed until we understand part of the architectural specs; whatever work they do has to interface with the work that would have to be done.

Alderman Simonetti: The cameras will not only be seen by people in the office, but as well as your central location, the High School and the police station?

Ben Trabka: It would not be at the High School; it would be by the police station, but if it was web-based, you can theoretically pull it up from the High School to the address in place to tie into it. You can actually have those in the individual police cars if they were responding to the scene. It is not just going to happen with this grant, but with a few additions it should go along. You can keep adding to the system; this is a very solid base to work with and you can add components as you go along.

Alderman Simonetti: As you know with Newtown, the police did not know where everyone was. No matter if you are armed, fully- armed, you are walking into a very dangerous situation. If you are the first person on the scene, you know you have to move forward and it is very scary.

Freeman Burr: These would have capabilities that would be monitored from police vehicles, as well.

Allan Cameron: That is in what we call the “architectural fortification project”. That has the three elementary schools: Elizabeth Shelton, Mohegan and Long Hill in it, and it also has a school system-wide project element that has to do with technology and communications to make sure that it is all integrated.

Alderman Simonetti: The only other question I have, and I do not mean in any shape or form to say that parents should not have access; I don’t think the parents should have access to this.

Ben Trabka: As with most of the security, we do not give the parents every little bit of nook and cranny that we do. The system will be blocked, and could be only accessed by the administrator.

Mark Holden: You do not want the bad guys to have access to that.

Alderman Simonetti: I am not saying that the parents are concerned, but you have people racing to an event and it may not be an event, and one is calling others.

Mike Maglione: Mr. Chairman, you had been talking about protecting the plan so it would be written out as a performance. I have no idea what has happened since Newtown, but I believe if you register whatever we are going to have with the plans, the Department of Transportation say yes or no if they are FOI-able. It would be worth our while to investigate to see if there is a complete markdown.

Allan Cameron: Yes, you do not want these to be out because you do not want the bad guys to know what we can do.

Freeman Burr: If we are done with that discussion, I just wanted to hand out some photos and let Ben Trabka speak to this. This is the security film that I alluded to earlier; I would've brought the video but I could not locate it. The video is better than reading the book in this case, but I would like to hand these out and let Ben talk about the police test. Essentially, Ken LaCroix got glass that we use in our school system, and we got security film. If you find this stuff on the Internet, it claims that it can do this, that and the other thing. This is the reality of what can be done of what you are seeing here. These are actual windowpanes, and I would be happy to send you the video. Ben will take five minutes to talk a little bit, so everyone understands what they see.

Ben Trabka: Basically, we have asked the Police Department to test what the glass and shield would actually do. It is a clear shield that is placed on both sides of the windows. Ken LaCroix took different styles of glass in our buildings, and we took them out to a range and we used a shotgun, an assault rifle, which was used in Newtown, a .40 caliber, which at the time, the police were carrying and it is a common handgun. We did use a shovel as well. They put numerous shots in the small panels of glass and it would typically shatter and you would be able to walk through. They put shots into a relatively close section of glass, and they put it in a further section just to see what would happen. The film did maintain its integrity very well, and it took efforts with all kinds of other tools to even penetrate and get a hand to try to open the door. I will be honest, and I was not a huge fan of this in the beginning. I thought it was a gimmick and they were going to make millions off of someone else's grief; but it truly changed my eyes as I watched the test and saw everything being performed.

Freeman Burr: The bullets do penetrate.

Ben Trabka: What this does is keep the integrity of the glass and the structure, so the person will not be able to get in. So as long as the people along there are hidden and safe, he or she has a big job ahead of them to penetrate, to get inside. Again, this is all about time; it is about slowing these people down so the police and emergency units can get there and prevent something.

Mark Holden: At the security conference that was held last January, they showed a video showing a building that had the security film on it. A couple of guys tried to get in, and they had an assortment of things like axes, baseball bats and essentially they showed a sped up version of about 15 minutes. Of 15 minutes of hard work, they still were not able to get in and by then the police had time to show up.

Alderman Simonetti: Does the company actually put this on the glass?

Ben Trabka: There are actually two different systems: one- the maintenance staff can put it on and purchase it from the company already on. Or, you would have them professionally installed.

Alderman Simonetti: We are not going to be putting this on the glass until-

Freeman Burr: We will be proceeding with the small cost schools for us, which can be handled within the Board's operation budget: Booth Hill and Sunnyside. The problem is with the larger schools, and with the amount of glass. The school with the largest amount of glass is Perry Hill School. If you think about Perry Hill, we do not have to go all the way up to the top. The advice is to go up around six or seven feet because if someone made penetration at the top, you would still need a ladder to climb in.

Allan mentioned the stainless steel iron mesh. We can install that; we do not need assistance with that. This is a product where you need to get the contractor to do it, because even though we can train our guys to do it, potentially there is waste involved. With any film like this, as Ben said on both sides, you have to make sure that you have an expert putting the film in.

Alderman Kudej: On the picture of the frame with the .23, did one round do this damage?

Ben Trabka: No, he did a whole clip so about 30 rounds, and he also put another clip in as well.

Freeman Burr: That frame still maintained its integrity.

Alderman Kudej: The other ARs have a higher caliber round. Isn't the .223 a lower caliber?

Ben Trabka: There is not much of a difference. I am not a big gun person but I can tell that our firearms people can tell you that there is no difference. It will have the same effect on the glass.

Mike Maglione: You have to remember that after they fired the shots, they then went at it with his boots to try to kick it in, as well as with other tools and it did not budge that much.

Ben Trabka: Again, the reason we did this was concern that this was a gimmick. You are watching a commercial and you are thinking that commercials are commercials. The whole school system and police department came together, and we did our own test. There was not one person who saw the test and walked away a non-believer.

Freeman Burr: I will forward you the photos and of the details of what we would be looking for, for the three major schools. I appreciate you giving me the time to share that.

Alderman Anglace: I want to make a few comments at this point: I started off by saying that this is a priority project. I sense that there is a great deal of anxiety in the community to get this project done. The Board of Aldermen will pay; you have our commitment that we will fund it. There is no question about that. What has to happen is that we have to translate all of this technical jargon and all of the technical stuff that all of you are investigating into a reasonable way to get this done as soon as possible. If we need to call special meetings, call them. Do not wait until the next meeting. This is priority project and it cannot wait from one meeting to the next. We need to receive your priority attention at all levels, whoever it is. I think we need to change an anxiety level to a comfort level, to know what we are doing to get the job done. We see our kids as our number one priority in this town, and this is why we are at this table tonight. Just think that we have to leave the table with the understanding that we are committed, that we are going to get this done. All too many times as you

go along, Thanksgiving is coming up, so what? Even on the day before, get the job done. Even the day after, City Hall is not open but we can certainly find another location to meet. Whatever has to be done has to be expedited.

Gene, when you go out to bid, you have to have these vendors on notice. I think you all share that view, but sometimes I think it takes having a pep talk to say that we are working on this. It is a major project as far as I am concerned, but I think everyone around this table agrees with that.

Ben Trabka: I have to commend you because on the security point of view, everyday I am in a different school; three to eight schools a day I am in. The anxiety level is there, and the parents truly want to see progress being made so they are happy about that. I really commend that you want to move these things forward, because for some of them they are not much of a big deal to change them to make it a much more safer environment.

Freeman Burr: As we move forward with the security film and cameras, I think those are going to speak volumes because I think those are things that can be expedited. The architectural stuff for the three schools: exterior window and door changes- we have to make sure we are doing our due diligence with that. That requires a little more time because it requires planning, and as Allan said, it requires architectural services. You do not want to rush that because those cameras will go into those schools, so we want to make sure that anything that is put in there stands with the security upgrades relative to the surveillance as well.

Alderman Simonetti: Are your instructors on board with this, with cameras all around?

Freeman Burr: Well you raised a good point. At this day and age, given, I can be in your classroom and literally videotaping you without you knowing and putting it on Facebook. I think the purpose of this is surveillance. I think people will be fine because I think there is an acceptance with the way we lived pre-Sandy Hook is not the way we will be able to live now. I think this is timely because we are one month away from the anniversary.

Alderman Kudej: Will there be cameras in restrooms?

Ben Trabka: No. The cameras will be in the gymnasiums, cafeterias, all hallways and the exterior is going to be a full 360 view.

Freeman Burr: You may have surveillance of someone walking in, but you will not have surveillance inside the restrooms. Privacy will still be maintained.

Bernie Simons: You had cameras in the high school for a while. It was not an issue then, so it really would not be an issue now.

Freeman Burr: The three schools were in good shape, as Allan said. We are not concerned about those. We are very concerned about the elementary schools. I meet with PTO representatives every six weeks with parents and parents that do not even have children in the elementary schools that are concerned with kids' safety in the elementary schools. I think we would agree that over the last few years, we have upgraded security in all of our larger buildings, but our elementary schools when we think about it; they were built at a time when they were not keeping people out of schools. We wanted them to be neighborhood schools, inviting and open to the public. It is only in the aftermath of what has happened over the past fifteen years that we have to now look at schools from a different standpoint. It doesn't mean we are in a better world, but I think everything we talked about tonight and certainly the commitment from the Board of Aldermen certainly makes us feel a lot better going forward.

Alderman Anglace: I understand that there are going to be reasons, there has to be creative stuff that comes forth and that is going to take a little time. I think the answer to it when taking a little time, so you have to remember that people are wondering what is going on so there has to be communication. I think we all have the technical people, but who is going to be the communicator? Who is going to tell people what is going on? Is that part of your website for the school system? That might be helpful to people to know that something is going on, just not getting the information from mouth to mouth.

Thursday night of this week, three days from now, we will appoint the Public Improvement Building Committee. They are sitting here now and they will get going; they do not have to wait for us. These are technicalities; you have time limits in the Charter for certain things and we have to meet them. If we can figure ways around them, like calling this meeting tonight to go over it, even if they were not appointed, the point is to get everyone on the ball.

Freeman Burr: From the Board of Ed standpoint, we greatly appreciate the fact that you did call this meeting tonight. It makes us feel better, and I will be tweeting with parents that we met, and I will be communicating with the parent group that I meet with every six weeks, as well.

Alderman Anglace: Bernie Simons is Chairman of the Public Improvement Building Committee. Bernie, do you have any comments with respect to this discussion?

Bernie Simons: We already have this item set on our agenda for a meeting this Monday. What I would like is someone from the Board to come to address our meeting, because obviously everyone is not here right now; but to get everyone up to speed on what it is and have someone explain these pictures. As far as I can tell, the film is a great idea on protecting the integrity of the perimeter. If you can protect the perimeter, it will be a lot harder for someone to do anything, and that pertains to the structural integrity, as well.

Also, the cameras at the entrances and exits, you will also be able to zoom in on the license plates if you did need that information. You would automatically be able to spot to see if any one did take or try to get in, and then took off before the police got there. My understanding is every situation where a school has been invaded, it has always been through the front; it has never been through any of the sides or back.

Ben Trabka: They have had instances where they had snipers back in Pennsylvania. Unfortunately it is people that due their own diligence, their own recognizance.

Freeman Burr: At the elementary level, we worked hard because in some respects, quite frankly, we as staff are our own worst enemies. If you put yourselves in elementary schools: you take your kids out for recess and invariably in twenty minutes, one child is going to say that they need to go back in and use the bathroom. A teacher is not going to send that child all the way around to the front of the building to get in. So, we have a propensity to leave doors ajar. Even if we are running to our car and one of the things that have been a positive thing about this is that our staff has a renewed appreciation that school security is not just the principal's responsibility. School security is everyone's responsibility; we are all interdependent on the last person that left, whether it was a side entrance, back or main entrance, to make sure the facilities are secure. You cannot

just expect the principal to be in fifteen locations at one time, or any other staff member for that matter.

Bernie Simons: For the security of the doors, you would not have to worry if the door is ajar if they have a card swipe, or just lock the doors and say no problem; you would be able to get right in.

Freeman Burr: That was one of the main things that we have done at the Shelton Intermediate School because that system failed there, last year when the building was only fourteen years old and the system failed. So, out of the Board's budget, we invested in that last year. We have to do that in every school. When we will meet, we will talk about more immediate things that we can do, and what can be phased in over time. That is the ultimate goal because now you are not afraid of leaving the doors ajar.

Bernie Simons: It also would be easier to open it again because you are not giving out combinations to everyone. People would be able to get in and out with the card swipe.

Ben Trabka: If you are gone from the system, it will shut you out real quick; within five minutes you are gone.

Alderman Anglace: Bernie, can you indicate if this is the correct list of the members of the Public Improvement Building Committee?

Bernie Simons: This is the correct list.

Alderman Anglace: So when this transitions, the Public Improvement Building Committee as of now, the Board of Ed will be represented and they will proceed from there. Somehow, please keep us all informed on what is going on. I know there are minutes from the Public Improvement Building Committee. The minutes are online from seven days of the meeting so we do have a way of keeping track of what is going on. That would be a big help.

Bernie Simons: Would you like a set of written minutes, or we can have the secretary put you on the list for distribution?

Francis Macilvain: Yes, we should send our meeting minutes to the Board of Aldermen.

Bernie Simons: Yes, we will have the secretary put the Board of Aldermen on the list for distribution.

Francis Macilvain: And the Board of Ed, as well.

Alderman Anglace: There might people within the public that may have an interest of when the Public Improvement Building Committee holds their meetings. Perhaps when you file your minutes, it would be a good idea to keep someone abreast, and the clerk can email them publicly when the meetings will be held.

Bernie Simons: That would not be a problem at all; we can certainly do that. With regards to the Board of Ed, would we be sending the minutes to the Superintendent's Office?

Freeman Burr: One of the things that I will convey to the PTO groups is that PIBC will be meeting and they can choose to send a designee, or if they want to rotate a designee at that those meetings, so those PTO members would be aware of what is happening, even though we will still brief them of the minutes and things like that.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Anglace MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti.
A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brittany Gannon, Clerk
Board of Aldermen

DATE APPROVED: _____ BY:

Mark A. Lauretti
Mayor, City of Shelton