

## High School Athletic Complex Renovation Update

We wanted to update you on the High School Athletic Complex Renovation. As you know, a vote was taken at the polls in April and passed for the project to be funded with excluded debt. However, at the Annual Town Meeting in April the second step to fund this project, voting on the warrant article, was passed over due to several outstanding issues. The intention was that the article would come back to Special Town Meeting in November.

With most of the outstanding issues addressed and design documents complete, the cost estimate of the project increased by \$1.2M. The town learned last week that the Department of Revenue will not allow most of the additional cost of the project to be funded with excluded debt without another ballot vote. The Board of Selectmen, responsible for the financial health of our town, made the hard decision this week to not include the High School Athletic Complex Renovation article in November's Special Town Meeting. Making a sound financial decision, they feel that the town cannot absorb the additional cost of the project into its capital budget if it is funded with non-excluded debt.

Where does this leave us?

- A new vote at the polls will be taken in April so that the entire project can be funded with excluded debt.
- A warrant article will be brought to Annual Town Meeting in April for approval of the project.
- If both the vote at the polls and the town meeting article pass in April, we will sign a contract and begin work immediately in the late spring. This will put the project approximately 6-8 weeks behind what we had hoped.

While this is disappointing news for the project, we fully support the Board of Selectmen's decision and look forward to April.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. As always, thanks for your support.

The School Committee

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