

Surry School Board Meeting

December 15, 2025

Call to Order at 7:00 pm

Present: Kim, Tim, John, Caroll, Melinda, Becky; Not present: Frank; David Lawrence

Secretary's Report

- Tim motion to approve the Nov 20 special meeting. Caroll second, no discussion, all in favor. One absent.
- Tim motion to approve the Nov 17 regular meeting minutes. Caroll second, no discussion, all in favor. One absent.

Treasurer's Report

- Total deposits \$130,030.49. SVCS will pay the \$50 invoice from the NH Dept of Labor. Motion to approve manifest of \$27,423.52, Caroll seconded, all in favor. One absent.

Public Comment

- David Lawrence noted that the meeting is interesting, and with a lot of number crunching

Old Business

- **2026-27 Budget Development:** Tuition rates for next year have been received from SAU29. Will need to work a number that is reasonable for us to continue renovation work.
- **RSA 189:76 - Mandatory Report to Voters:** New RSA, prescriptive, Kim has attorney's advice as requested. The RSA is staff data driven, which is not applicable to Surry. Legal counsel recommended a statement be included in the public hearing; Kim will work to provide a draft.
- **Surry School Renovation Project**
 - **Public meeting series:** Last public meeting was very positive – 15+ residents in attendance. People largely agreed that it is time to renovate/improve this public building. Maximize grant funding to try to minimize any expenses. Kim suggested we schedule more meetings; Melinda suggested a postcard mailing, and said it would be great to see SVCS families attending one of the meetings. Tim agreed a postcard would be good.

- **Building repair compliance work FY 25-26:** For this current year, we will have architectural consultation with Barker Architects, spend for legal work for ADA compliance, relocate custodial sink, ADA bathroom in hallway. Kim spoke with Nicole; she agreed that this work is important, however feels that safety is a concern.
- **Other:** Carroll was not able to get someone lined up to be the Clerk. Suggesting we put an ad in the Surry Facebook and newsletter looking for a volunteer Clerk. The board agreed.

New Business

- **Proposed expenditure school building expendable trust:** Motion to withdraw up to \$60,000 from the expendable trust for 2025-26 building upgrades. Tim seconded. Consultation fee architect, legal fees, ADA bathroom, electrical/custodial closet work, see what's possible around temp school safety measures with SVCS. We will get as much done as possible with the \$60,000. All in favor, none opposed. One absent.
- **Renovation project funding research:** Kim has done quite a bit of research over the past month. Steve Goldsmith connected Kim with the Cheshire County grants manager; identified two potential grant opportunities – the Land and Community Heritage Investment program and Community Development Block Grant program. One may require the building to be designated historical; Kim will ask Jay Croteau. USDA rural development said that school renovations are eligible projects, however the govt is not funding that at this time.
- **SVCS and renovation project:** Kim will be meeting with SVCS board and Friends of SVCS on January 12 around development work and fundraising, generally for the long-term health of SVCS and for the renovation project. He will also be talking to their grant writer/development professional. Round 4 of the SAFE grants from the State of NH came out; Kim encouraged SVCS to apply for the grant, however SVCS has not yet had the prerequisites completed (NH Homeland Security & Emergency Management assessment, attestations from local first responders, etc.). They will need to wait until round 5 comes out. The award grants up to \$150k/school.
- **ADA bathroom:** Most expensive part of project. With current need for ADA bathroom, SVCS and Keene School District had folks come in, assess bathroom toilet; they are working to fit it with a temporary piece of equipment for student/s in need.
- **SVCS cleaning project:** Durling Cleaners will do a deep clean of the building, focusing on bathrooms and floors. We will be billing SVCS for the cleaning service.

Superintendent's Report: We do not have audit report yet; it will be reviewed next meeting. The audit report is expected to say we are fine, with good solid internal controls. Julie and Jodie are working hard. Looking into a minute taker to process School Board minutes. We still have policy work to do.

Setting the next meeting agenda

- Meeting date: Monday, January 19, 2025 @ 7:00 pm

Public Comment: David Lawrence said that the library is the only building in town is ADA compliant right now. Asked if we are still reimbursing the school for the fuel bill? Tim said, no, SVCS pays the fuel bill as well as the other utilities.

Non-public RSA 91-A:3: Tim made motion to move into non-public at 8:16 pm. Caroll seconded.

- Discussion regarding advice from legal counsel and speaking with Drummer Woodsum about representation for an issue related to the building; Melinda made a motion to retain Drummer Woodsum to review the lease, and then as needed. Caroll seconded. All in favor, none opposed, one absent.
- Discussion regarding three specific students.

Caroll made motion to move out of non-public at 8:40. Tim seconded. All in favor.

Adjournment at 8:41 pm