

Special Meeting with Select Board March 23, 2026

Present: Ron Profraizer, Jay Croteau, Steve Goldsmith, Jill Lane, Frank, John, Kim, Tim, Caroll (notes)
Called to order at 6:30 PM

Tim updated the Select Board on current status of Surry School renovation project:

-Up to \$60,000 taken from Building Trust Fund to build ADA compliant bathrooms during April break, by 5/2

-\$100,000 Warrant: pave school driveway either whole thing or from 12A to roundabout & ACA space

Possibly to move sink out of electrical room and modernize electrical room

Addressing ADA & safety will be a big relief, hope to get more done as \$160,000 allows.

Future needs: get rid of oil furnace and install propane heat, modify entrance for safety

Tim explained SVCS needs a regular cleaner, SSB hired a light cleaning (SVCD paid for), Tim put up LED outside lights, Kim painted the hall with a staff member.

SVCS has been asked to fundraise for the renovation. SSB is updating the building, SVCS needs to provide for safety issues required of a school. SVCS is working to become eligible for charter grants. SVCS students save Surry about \$250,000 per year in tuitions, how much rent would the building collect if SVCS was not there? SVCS has more competition than when they started.

Kim explained he has been working with SVCS Trustees for a year about fundraising for long-term sustainability. They don't want to fundraise for renovation. Determining what are SSB and what are SVCS responsibilities. SVCS can apply for a \$50,000 grant for safety (cameras), but needs to meet ADA and safety standards first.

Tree Agents potential subdivision could impact SSB and SVCS.

Tim says we are rehabbing a building, but they need to pay for what their school needs/wants are. SSB is not forging ahead, is adapting as things change. We would be investing in a town building. If SVCS leaves, SSB would still be responsible for the building.

Steve says SSB needs to prioritize what needs to be done. Tim said we need to repair some exposed asbestos in floors, want move towards electric heat which means we don't need to repair the chimney.

Ron said this is taking small steps. If SVCS closes, some students will not go elsewhere, closing the Surry building would hurt the town.

Jay said a nicer school would attract more students. Kim mentioned a gap in preschools in the area. Only Marlborough and Keene have public preschools.

Kim has looked into grants, but SSB would not qualify. Northern Borders grant is given to municipalities. Could Surry apply for the grant to give to the SSB for the renovation?

Tim mentioned that the Open Enrollment bill would require a town to send \$22,000 to the receiving town (which is way more than the state sends to a town per student). Senator Donovan is opposed to this bill.

Ron wants more cross-pollination between town boards. Tim said talking to more people yields more ideas. We are a team.

Adjourned 7:28 PM