

First Selectman

From: Jennifer Cox <jennifer3280@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 1:37 PM
To: First Selectman
Subject: ARPA funds for media upgrade

Hi Mr. Bisbikos,

I was at the last Selectmen meeting when the purchase of the media technology for the town hall was discussed. I think the town should go ahead with this upgrade; however, I think it is important that the Selectmen and the town understand the true cost and ask for the full amount from the ARPA grant.

The amount requested from the ARPA grant is the amount quoted, plus 10 years of maintenance. I work with audio equipment and can assure you that on day 366 (the vendor representative said there was a one year warranty) something will break. I cannot remember the exact amount, but it is something like the amount of the equipment $\times 15\%$, $\times 9$, plus the 75,000 initial cost. It typically costs more to maintain than the original purchase. Too many times school and municipal equipment is unused and disregarded due to poor maintenance or lack of maintenance funds.

Thank you,
Jenn Cox

First Selectman

From: Michael Dubreuil <dubreuil@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 1:50 PM
To: First Selectman
Subject: Hybrid Meeting Room

Hello Andreas,
Please include this email in the BoS packet for the next meeting.

I have read the hybrid meeting room quote and believe it should be pushed forward. At a previous employer, I had experience with a similar contractor doing this type of work. I've also seen the work Red Thread has done; and it's very good. This quote is consistent with that type of work and it's great that they're giving schools and towns a discount.

The thing about these meeting rooms is... you won't actually know if it's "exactly" what you want until you've used it for a year. Then there's always going to be something you wish you had done differently; maybe save for that? Additionally, money should be reserved for maintenance. Someone will accidentally break something, whether it's stepping on a cord, accidentally pulling a cable out, etc. Honestly, I'm unsure if the board should purchase the service contract; however, they should certainly save the amount of money they would have spent on the service contract in a planned maintenance account for this equipment.

Now to the politics...

This is starting to feel a lot like the town's open accounting software. A proposal that everyone agrees is a good idea- but never actually gets done. I'm disappointed with some board members who were unprepared to vote on the hybrid meeting room quote at the March 3rd meeting. Some of those board members came prepared with outside legal opinions for the election lawsuit; however, came unprepared for the hybrid meeting room discussion. If they're unfamiliar with the concepts and technology then they should reach out to someone they trust for their opinion. It seems that they are proactive in obtaining outside opinion for partisan fighting, like the town election lawsuit. Unfortunately, something nonpartisan, that would benefit the community, a hybrid meeting room, they don't proactively pursue. They are just slowing the process down- and it's starting to feel a lot like the open accounting software.

There has been ample opportunity to research this topic and scrutinize the quote. At this point a statement of "I'm not prepared to vote on this tonight", is a "no" vote in disguise.

Michael Dubreuil
180 Woodbine Road, Colchester, CT