

COMMITTEE ON JOINT SCHOOL BUILDINGS

April 2, 1997

6:30 PM

Chairman Higgins called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: School Committee Members Higgins, Healy, and Zebrowski
Aldermen Reiniger, Clancy, and Domaingue

Messrs.: R. MacKenzie, F. Marinace, E. Stumpf, R. Houle, J. Gatsas,

Chairman Higgins addressed item 3 of the agenda:

Status report relative to the new Middle School.

Mr. Marinace stated we started with eight pre-qualified general contractors, of the eight, we now have seven because one dropped out. The contractors are Barletta Engineering from Hampton, Eckman Construction from Bedford, Harvey Construction from Bedford, MacMillan Company from Keene, Bonnett Page & Stone Corp. from Laconia, Engelberth Construction Inc. from Bedford, who have dropped out, Hutter Construction from New Ipswich, and P.J. Stella Construction from Wakefield, MA. The bid opening is scheduled for April 16th at 2:00 p.m. at City Hall. Our pre-bid conference is scheduled for Friday, April 4th at 9:30 a.m., and the general contractors are required to be at that, to answer questions. Next week we will be issuing an addendum to address any questions that are raised. We have approvals from the State of New Hampshire, the paperwork will follow because they are shorthanded, but we do have the verbal approval of the project. Other than that the project is out to bid and everything is going fine.

Chairman Higgins addressed item 4 of the agenda:

Discussion relative to potential site, water, and insect problems at the new Middle School location. Architect, Engineer, and Health Department representatives will be available to provide additional information to the Committee and any other member of the Board of School Committee who may be interested in attending.

Chairman Higgins advised there is an ongoing concern about this site. Water and drainage, insect problems, it has been brought up many times and that is Ms. Zebrowski's field of expertise and I understand you had a meeting with the various groups. Were you satisfied with what you heard at that meeting.

Ms. Zebrowski stated I have some very serious reservations about this site and the drainage and amount of water there. Concerning especially catch basins or lack of catch basins in the courtyard posing a strong potential for flooding in the school. Also the drainage ditch in back of the school with a 15 foot drop which will have standing water in it at all times. I am concerned about the safety of the children at the school, and I don't think it is going to be appropriate for what we need. I am concerned about the way this site is developing.

Chairman Higgins asked Mr. Marinace can those issues be addressed.

Mr. Marinace answered yes. Those are concerns that are worth discussing. Since that meeting we came up with some ideas to alleviate the possibility of flooding within the school.

Mr. Stumpf explained we looked at several different options for eliminating the bath tub effect that you have in the proposed courtyard. One of which involves a slight reconfiguration of the sidewalks, paved areas of the courtyard to allow an overflow point that is lower than the first floor level of the school.

Chairman Higgins requested that the drawings of the proposed changes be furnished to Ms. Zebrowski.

Mr. Stumpf described the drawings to the committee, that there would be an overflow drain that would be positioned approximately 6 inches below the first floor of the school. The overflow point would be on a paved sidewalk that would presumably be plowed in the winter and kept clear. Other options were to pipe the overflow through the building connecting to the underslab roof drain system to carry it out the back. Then there was a concern with the single catch basin in the middle that snow banks melting during the day and then freezing at night might be an icing issue, so we have done another sketch that has four catch basins which is about 6,000 to 10,000 construction cost increase, but it would pull the drainage away from the center of the courtyard. There was also concern about the existing slope behind Green Acres School, and the design as prepared takes any rainwater that flows down that slope and allows it to flow into the curb line of the loop road around the middle school. To supplement that we did some sketches that would allow a ditch before the roadway so that water would collect in the ditch and be picked up and not enter into the roadway at all.

Alderman Domaingue asked how deep and how wide would the ditch be.

Mr. Stumpf answered about 12 inches deep and v-shaped, the bottom would be about three feet offset from the curb line.

Alderman Domaingue stated I am thinking in terms of the kind of winters we have here. That is all well and good for a rainstorm, but when you begin to pack snow and have a spring melt and a runoff...

Mr. Stumpf answered there is a crown in the roadway itself so there is fourteen feet of pavement sloping away from the middle school to the curb line. If the ditch is built up with sand and silt over time or with snow banks, the water will still go down the gutter line in the roadway to the nearest catch basin. This is just two ways to get the water out. There is not a lot of water there to begin with because at the top of the slope there is a curb line on the green acres side. The only water coming down that slope is the rainwater or snow melt from on the slope itself and any ground water that might seep out.

Alderman Domaingue stated what I have heard from some people before the meeting started this evening is that they have a real concern with the water problem on this site. I have to be sensitive to that because I live in a neighborhood that abuts airport property, and they removed tons of trees and left barren land. When they did that they had nothing to soak up the water. So for the past two years when the spring melt begins and the rain comes that water just glides off the surface of that land because there is no where else for it to go and it goes to the slope of the land, and the slope of the land is directed toward the homes that abut the property. As a result I have had homeowners who have had water cascading down their basement walls. What I am saying is we are looking at a multi million dollar facility that will take a large taxpayer investment in and I don't want to have to be called back because we have spring melt off which freezes at night. While we are all anxious to keep on a schedule here I do not want to buy into any kind of a plan for any kind of a school that will cause the kind of aggravation I have seen in my neighborhood. I am not going to support any kind of developed site for a school that is going to engender those kinds of problems and if the best you can tell this body is that we will always have these problems then maybe we are looking at the wrong site.

Mr. Stumpf stated this site is fairly wet it is not forested such as the airport land. But a tremendous amount of time has gone into engineering the site and trying to control the storm water and the ground water. I feel that the systems as designed will be effective.

Alderman Domaingue stated the culvert you spoke of earlier behind Green Acres, is that currently in existence?

Mr. Stumpf answered yes.

Mr. Healy asked what happens when these catch basins get clogged up?

Mr. Stumpf answered you would have to clean them out.

Mr. Healy asked but where does the water go? Is the water going to go right into the front of the school and flood the whole first floor of the school? Is that a possibility if the catch basins that are proposed get clogged up?

Mr. Stumpf answered if they were completely clogged up then the water would build up on the surface and eventually would enter the school.

Mr. Healy stated I have some concerns just as Alderman Domaingue does. It seems as though this area is extremely wet, a lot wetter than we were led to believe. I have a lot of concern, as time goes on I am beginning to believe that this site is not adequate for that school because of all the water problems that it seems that we are going to incur.

Mr. Stumpf stated the way the courtyard area is designed, it is a bath tub. It would be very difficult for it to not be a bath tub, because of the nature of the shape of the building and the elevations of the doors. The original design as it stands on the bid documents has a four foot diameter catch basin in the center of the courtyard, a three floor sump to catch sand and so forth, and a fifteen inch outlet pipe which has at least four feet of earth cover to protect it from freezing. Four catch basins in the landscaped areas, also a sub surface foundation drain that follows the entire perimeter of the building to that area, and subsurface drains under the building. I think the chances of seeing that catch basin become completely blocked, and the under slab and foundation drains not being able to handle some of the water, and enough water getting in there from rainwater or other sources, to fill up the basin and spill into the school, is fairly remote, and chances are that someone is going to see that there is a problem before it happens and call the Highway Department, and they would clean out the catch basin.

Alderman Clancy stated it is not that easy.

Mr. Stumpf stated we can include any of the new proposals in the addendum to provide measures to reduce the possibility of there ever being any water in the school, by either dropping the rim of the bath tub providing a place for it to spill

over, and/or putting additional piping under the building to the back side. Certainly if this Board directs me to, I will have that in the addendum.

Mr. Healy stated the area in back of the school concerns me as well, the catch basin or holding basin, this I understand has the potential of holding fifteen feet of water?

Mr. Stumpf answered it is fifteen feet from the roadway to the bottom of the basin, but the basin can only hold three and a half feet of water. There is a big slope into it but on the downhill side of it is only three and a half feet.

Mr. Healy asked this will hold three and a half feet of water. I have some concerns about the slope going down to the basin, it seems like a very steep slope.

Mr. Stumpf answered it is graded at the same level as the slope behind Green Acres School.

Mr. Healy asked did we explore the possibility of putting the school further up on this site?

Mr. Stumpf answered I believe that was one option studied.

Mr. Healy asked why did we not go with that area?

Mr. Stumpf answered most of that area is wetland, that was the fundamental reason for not putting the school there.

Mr. Gatsas stated I sat through this when we went through the Northwest School, the storm drains at Northwest, through the month of April was thawing, it filled up over the weekend, it froze, it backed up into the school because it was level with the school, and that flooded and was not noticed until Monday morning when the custodian came into school. That was the same time this was designed, the storm drain was supposed to handle the overflow where the pitch was, etc. and it did not work. That area of Northwest is one fourth as wet as this place, maybe one tenth as wet. This place you can go down there in the middle of the summer, and it is soaking wet after a rainstorm. No matter how they designed the field, those little gullies between the baseball and soccer field, is still wet. The type of drainage you have here is the best you can do for the price you are paying. Because of the Tennessee gas line going through the back, you don't have the best drainage system you could have in there, is that correct?

Mr. Stumpf answered that, plus the wetlands.

Mr. Gatsas answered so the Tennessee gas line has a barrier on this because of their restrictions, if that gas line or wetlands were not there we could put in a different type of a drainage system. Is that correct?

Mr. Stumpf answered yes.

Mr. Gatsas stated that is another drawback, the biggest drawback in my eyes is having a pool of dead water there, twelve months out of the year. We are encouraging people to use this area, kids are going to ride their bicycles. The way the plans look, part of it is fenced in, part of it is a guardrail. The liability to the City is gone if a child slips and falls down the embankment. I don't think the residents that live there would appreciate knowing that there is a detention basin there twelve months out of the year with water. When I went to Green Acres presentation, I did not hear of a detention basin to be there all year filled with water. I heard it was going to be part of the time, through the thaw.

Mr. Stumpf stated the detention basin, to meet State requirements for the NH Department of Environmental Services, the outlet pipe is required to be six inches vertically above the bottom of the basin. Which means you are likely to have as much as six inches of water most of the time. In really wet years you'll see water in there, in really dry years you will see the bottom. During major storms the water will get a little deeper for a short period of time, a matter of hours, at most a day or two. The absolute maximum depth would be three and a half feet.

Mr. Gatsas asked do you think in your opinion, this is a workable site?

Mr. Stumpf answered yes.

Mr. Gatsas asked you have no doubt about this, would you guarantee, after all this planning and everything, you would guarantee if we have problems, you would be willing to fix it?

Mr. Stumpf answered I can't do that.

Mr. Gatsas stated then I don't think it is a workable site.

Mr. Stumpf stated I can't do that on any site.

Mr. Gatsas stated I sat here and the frustration level for me is because of Northwest School, that was told to me that would not happen. The Highway Department was going to clean it, everyone was going to clean it. It happened on

a Friday night, the weekend went through, that floor was flooded, teachers records, everything was damaged and lost.

Mr. Stumpf answered that is to install a little wet well, and put a float switch in it tied to an alarm, and have that alarm go off wherever you want it to go off, so that if water starts to build up for whatever reason, you can send somebody out to deal with it.

Alderman Domaingue asked did the Army Corps of Engineers have an opinion on this yet?

Mr. Stumpf answered the ACE has the documents, I tried to call them for the last two days and was not able to get through.

Alderman Domaingue stated more than anything I would like to build this school, but I have to be conscious of what it is I am doing. What you are telling this committee is that we are expected to follow a building time line without any input at this point from the Army Corps of Engineers, is that usual?

Mr. Stumpf answered at this time I would expect that they would have their input sometime this week. What we are doing right now is soliciting bids on the project, which in no way obligates the City to move forward with construction. If the news from the Corps of Engineers is not favorable, or whatever, then we will have to deal with that when it comes.

Mr. MacKenzie stated the wetland permitting process is one of the toughest parts of the entire design process. The process did change, there used to be a State Wetlands Board, that process changed and now wetlands applications, small ones, like this, the filling of a relatively small wetland area, the process used to go to the State Wetlands Board, and larger ones would go to the Corps of Engineers. The new process is that it goes to the State Department of Environmental Services, there is no longer any wetlands board. In reviewing the process, the Corps of Engineers likes to spot check this new procedure. That is what they have done here. The State DES issued a permit for approval. In the past there were nationwide blanket permits that the Corps of Engineers said below a certain level, they would not get involved but would leave it to each state. This was well under that level. The process has changed and the Corps of Engineers is checking what the State DES is approving.

Mr. Stumpf stated the Corps also sends copies to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the EPA and they have fifteen working days after receipt to state

whether or not they wish to comment or have any questions. That fifteen day period should have expired on Friday.

Ms. Labanaris asked how far above groundwater is that building?

Mr. Stumpf answered groundwater levels are generally around three feet below the ground surface. The building varies from right at ground surface to a significant fill.

Ms. Lebanaris asked is the building going to be damp? Are the slabs going to be waterproofed in any way? And if not will we have a damp building causing mold or mildew in the carpeting?

Mr. Stumpf answered the floor is a concrete slab, there is a plastic vapor barrier under that, and under the vapor barrier in certain portions of the building will be pipe drains, to control and lower the water table if it decides to rise that high.

Ms. Lebanaris asked is that enough?

Mr. Marinace stated we don't very often have to put under drains in schools, we only do that if there is any possibility at all of groundwater being in the vicinity of the building. This will probably be a drier building than most of the ones we already have. We spent over \$10,000 in soils exploration, identifying water levels, looking at soils types, and we have a thick book that reports on all of the subsurface conditions. That is all done so that we can address these things. This project has been engineered for about six months now, we went through a lot of the soils and drainage stuff. We have gone through this a lot of times, we did not design it overnight. We know we had to address all of these things and we have done that. Now we are out to bid, and word gets out to the contractors that the committee is having second thoughts, the contractors are likely to raise their prices.

Chairman Higgins stated I know we have had monthly meetings, we have had this discussion, it has come up every single meeting. We need to assure both boards, the board that gives us the money, and the board that has responsibility for this project that this is a good site. We are spending nine million dollars of the taxpayers money. Hindsight is 20/20. We want to make sure that all the stuff that happened at Northwest, we want to make sure it is taken care of. We do not want to be back here a year from now with problems. We are bringing this to you, now you tell us how you are going to take care of it. If these folks are not happy with your explanation, it stops there, and it doesn't matter how far we are into the bid

process. That is why we are here tonight, I want everyone to have their questions answered.

Mr. Marinace stated the answer is that we have engineered this site to the best of our ability. We have put a lot of time into the engineering of this project. You have had some good questions, Lynn brought up some good points. Like I said, we have spent a tremendous amount of time and money, a tremendous amount of engineering has gone into this site, I don't know what else we can do.

Mr. Houle stated I would like to correct the statement about the problem at Northwest School. The reason the water backed into the building was because there was a new person driving the plow and he plowed over the catch basin and covered it with snow, that is why it flooded the building.

Chairman Higgins stated those are some of the issues that come up from time to time and we are talking about alarms and sump pumps and this isn't a perfect City. We have to design and build this building so that it is as foolproof as possible because once the City builds something, they don't spend a whole lot of money maintaining it so this has to be virtually maintenance free. Anything you put in there better last 150 years because that's about how long it is going to take until it gets replaced. So that is why we need to make it the best we can.

Alderman Domaingue asked what the life span of a vapor barrier is.

Mr. Marinace answered it has not been in existence long enough, but we have demolished buildings that were 35 years old and the barrier looked like new.

Alderman Clancy stated it seems to me the water problem is a grave concern, I am concerned myself because I know people who live in the area, and they tell me that site is not adequate for the school. The school is a good idea, but there is too much water in that area.

Mr. Gatsas stated I have to be sure in my mind that this site is workable. I was at that school when it opened up. I have seen it grow through changes, the parks were put in, it seems like it is getting wetter and wetter each year. I don't want to put nine million dollars into that building and find out five years from now the people on Aurora Ave. flooded back. It just seems that there are more and more problems with this wet area.

Chairman Higgins asked was the water table part of the site study?

Mr. Marinace answered that was included in the soils investigation. The seasonal high water table is several feet below ground level where the building is going to be, and we used that to establish the elevation of the building. We could have set the building anywhere we wanted, for every foot it is raised costs 40 to 50,000. We established an elevation that would get us out of the seasonal high water table by a number of feet.

Mr. Gatsas asked if it drains off the school property, how does it affect the neighbors?

Mr. Stumpf answered all of the drainage from all of the under drains and all of the catch basins, goes to the highway, there is a 24 inch culvert under the highway, which goes out into the big triangle swamp at the highway interchange.

Ms. Zebrowski stated I still think this site is too wet, and I want to bring this up now. I think it is very high maintenance, the whole courtyard scenario is dependent on upkeep of the catch basins. I know there has been a lot of engineering that has gone into it and this is probably the best we are going to see, but I just don't think it is going to be adequate for what you need.

Mr. Marinace stated you need to maintain your building, you have to keep catch basins clean, if you completely neglect the whole site other than to mow the grass, you are going to start to have failures here and there.

Mr. Houle stated if the drains have problems we will get the highway department down there to clean them out.

Mr. MacKenzie stated I would like to clarify in my own mind that the Boards are comfortable with the Green Acres locations. I personally think this is the best geographic location for a new school facility because it is perfect in terms of the transportation system and access to the new growth areas of the City.

Chairman Higgins stated I don't think anyone is questioning that, I think the over all fear everyone has is that we don't want a school that cost nine million dollars on top of a bathtub.

Mr. MacKenzie stated in evaluating different sites, in terms of physical characteristics, there are no more good locations in the City to build a new school.

Chairman Higgins stated we know you looked at twelve different sites, and it came down to this one site because it had the acreage, the location, I believe, except for a couple of new members, we are well aware of what the process was.

We just want to make sure that every I has been dotted and every t has been crossed.

Mr. MacKenzie stated I also believe that it is important for the Joint School Building Committee, as well as the School Board to be fully comfortable the building that gets built. It is hard to see the building before it is there, and then if there is problems we don't know what to do. I am not sure how to give that comfort level. We deal with a lot of private development projects at the Planning Department that we review site plans for, and we rely on the Highway Department to review storm drainage, on site drainage, wetlands issues, etc. The Highway Department did review these plans, and signed off on the project.

Chairman Higgins stated I am assuming, and maybe I shouldn't have, when we asked Frank to meet with the different department heads, was the Highway Department included so that they have seen the plans, they have seen the specs, so they are aware of maintenance issues, drainage issues, and their part in all this.

Mr. Marinace answered at the meeting we had with them, they made suggestions and we have done our best to incorporate their suggestions. One of the suggestions they made was to eliminate the chain link fence on the side of the road down to that detention pond, due to a maintenance issue.

Mr. MacKenzie stated the issue raised by the technical group, and it did include all the key departments that deal with development, was a maintenance issue. I think that the area around the detention pond would be appropriate to have fenced in.

Chairman Higgins stated that was one of Mr. Gatsas' concerns. It would also be a concern of mine.

Alderman Domaingue stated would it be appropriate since it is the alderman who fund both the budget for the middle school and the budgets for the departments, for this committee to request the appearance of the Highway Department director, and the Parks and Recreation Director and any other director that might be involved so that we as aldermen who oversee their budgets can hear them tell us that they are going to prepare in their budgets for the contingency of being responsible for this site.

Chairman Higgins stated I have no objection to that.

Alderman Domaingue asked Mr. Marinace have you ever dealt with a site like this?

Mr. Marinace answered I have dealt with worse sites than this.

Alderman Domaingue asked can you recommend to this committee a site that we can go and visit so we can have some of our fears allayed?

Mr. Marinace answered yes, the East Derry Elementary School or Raymond High School.

Chairman Higgins asked worse in what way?

Mr. Marinace answered more water, a combination of water and rock, extensive under drains, a tremendous amount of fill.

Chairman Higgins stated so they are similar or worse. I keep thinking about the series of drains we are going to have.

Ms. Zebrowski stated I was not on the committee when you were choosing sites and I do not know exactly what you looked at, but did you look at private property? I am asking because I know that just the site budget for this site is a little over a million dollars.

Mr. MacKenzie answered I was involved in the site review for the project. We would need a minimum of eighteen acres. There are no more sites left in East Manchester that are what I would consider good development sites and have eighteen acres left.

Alderman Clancy asked the Lakeshore Hospital was mentioned before, what happened to that?

Mr. MacKenzie answered the Lakeshore Hospital was reviewed, we went out and toured the site. The difficulty with that site, and a good portion of that site is wetter than this one, it is a nice large physical site, at the time the asking price for the property was 4.5 million dollars. The physical building itself was not adequate for a middle school and would have to have been rebuilt. We had looked at the Sisters site on Island Pond Road, which is wetter than this one, the site off of south Mammoth Road near Crystal lake, that was a relatively nice site except that most of it was wetland, and the third was the Bonin property off of Bodwell Road, Cohas Avenue, and that was 75% wetland. To take property by eminent domain, and to have enough acreage, we would have to take upwards of fifty or sixty homes.

Alderman Reiniger asked is the eighteen acres a State standard, or could we work with reduced acreage?

Mr. MacKenzie answered it is possible to work with that, but we would have to ask for a waiver.

Mr. Marinace answered for a middle school you need ten acres, plus one acre per one hundred children, which would be eighteen. The State has looked at this whole site, and based on those forms and the site plan, they have approved the project.

Chairman Higgins asked is it possible to get a waiver for less than the eighteen acres, and Mr. MacKenzie is saying that would jeopardize our 30% of State funding.

Mr. Marinace answered for new construction it is very difficult, it is easier to get a waiver from the State if you are expanding an existing building. If you are building a new project you would not be likely to get a waiver.

Dr. Jack asked the water and drainage problems, do you see those only becoming problems only if the property is not appropriately maintained. In other words, if the property is maintained and the drains are cleaned, do you anticipate any drainage problems?

Mr. Marinace answered no, but whenever you build a facility, you have to maintain it.

Mr. Stumpf stated there is always a statistical risk when you build, that a series of weather events would occur that would overwhelm the system. We have designed it to the standards that are industry wide for drainage.

Chairman Higgins stated I thought that Alderman Domaingue made an excellent suggestion to have Department Heads speak to this Committee, and also arranging for site visits to other comparable sites. Would this committee object to having another meeting soon?

All Agreed.

Alderman Domaingue asked do you have flood statistics for this site?

Mr. MacKenzie answered this is not a flood plain, the closes one hundred or five hundred year flood plain is Cohas Brook.

Mr. Gatsas asked have we ever looked at the sand pits over towards Litchfield?

Alderman Domaingue answered that is the area of the proposed Airport Access Road.

Mr. MacKenzie stated I think it is important that the Boards are comfortable with the project. Another option is that we could have an independent civil engineer review all the work, all the calculations, all the drainage numbers and provide an independent and separate report to the committee, that is one option and I don't know what it might do to any schedules, so I would be hesitant to offer that unless we knew what would happen to the entire schedule. The goal has been to have the school opened by September of 1998. The second question I have is there is always the possibility to raise that building further, it could be raised another foot...

Chairman Higgins asked what would the cost of that be, an independent civil engineer do a study.

Mr. Marinace stated that is called a peer review.

Mr. Stumpf stated you might want to consider a geological survey, because your concern is groundwater. A civil engineer is not really going to address that issue.

Chairman Higgins asked Mr. MacKenzie to look into the cost of a peer review.

Alderman Reiniger, Domaingue and Clancy left to attend a budget meeting in the Aldermanic Chambers at City Hall. At this point the Committee did not have a quorum and it was requested that item five be rescheduled for discussion on April 16, 1997 at a meeting to be held at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Healy asked Mr. Houle for a brief update on the West High School project for informational purposes only.

Chairman Higgins addressed item 5 of the agenda:

Discussion with Fred Matuszewski, Architect, for close-out of West High School Science Labs renovation.

Mr. Houle stated I took the initiative after advising the Chair, to try to bring this project to completion. I asked Mr. Matuszewski to set up a meeting with Kelly Construction, himself and myself with an idea of negotiating settlement. We have received two letters from Kelly, one asking for an additional \$12,000 and another

for an additional \$17,000. I suggested that Fred add up his additional fees, and possible liquidated damages. We sat down and reviewed both positions. Kelly called back and agreed to... We met with the SCIP Committee this morning, and are recommending that you consider this settlement which is basically, well, I'll let Fred explain it. Basically they were asking for \$29,000 but we are agreeing to a change order of \$11,167 for two specific items. They have dropped \$17,000.

Mr. Matuszewski stated work at West High School is complete.

Chairman Higgins stated we will bring it up in two weeks in order to vote on it.

Mr. Matuszewski advised that he would need to draft a letter to the bonding company rescinding the request to call the bond.

There being no further business that can come before the Committee on Joint School Buildings, on motion of Mr. Healy, duly seconded by Ms. Zebrowski, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee