

**OLD BLACKSBURG MIDDLE SCHOOL (OBMS)
TRANSITION COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 15, 2006 MEETING**

The first meeting of the OBMS Transition Committee meeting was called to order by the group on Wednesday, November 15, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. at the Montgomery County Government Center, County Administration Conference Room.

Present were the six representatives from the Town of Blacksburg and Montgomery County:

Blacksburg

Councilman Paul Lancaster
Kathryn Albright-Citizen Member
Town Manager Marc Verniel

Montgomery County

BoS Member Gary Creed
Gary McCoy-Citizen Member
County Administrator Clay Goodman

Organization Set Up

The first order of business was to organize the committee. By consensus, the committee agreed to name Paul Lancaster as Chair, and Gary Creed as Vice Chair.

The minutes of the meetings and all documents will be maintained by Montgomery County staff.

The committee agreed by consensus to schedule monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at the Montgomery County Government Center. The committee discussed that in the future scheduled or special called meetings may be scheduled in the Town of Blacksburg if the committee deems necessary and appropriate. It was also agreed that communications with the Montgomery County School Board should be established and maintained throughout this process. Everyone agreed that the School Board was also a vital and important participant of the discussions on OBMS.

Town Manager Verniel and County Administrator Goodman were charged to work together for a joint press release advising the School Board and public of the committee's scheduled meetings and how to interact with the committee. By consensus it was agreed that the Town Manager and County Administrator would be identified as committee contact persons. The two were asked to identify possible web site development and advertisements which would communicate with the general public the committee's purpose and activities.

Stadium Construction Time Schedule

Mr. Lancaster asked if a stadium project schedule had been developed. Mr. Goodman reported that at the November 8, 2006 County/Town Liaison meeting, a tentative schedule was discussed:

Winter 2006-2007	Initiate design and construction drawing
Spring 2007	Bid and start construction
Spring 2008	Complete construction
Fall 2008	Tentative date for first field use

Committee Goals and Objectives

Mr. Creed presented his definition of the committee's many goals and objectives. He stated that the committee's goal was to provide the highest income and/or lease revenue for the future development of the land for schools, Town and County. Schools have great need for new money to assist in the School Construction program and tax money for the Town and County for all future endeavors which will directly benefit the Town and the County.

Mr. Lancaster added that the goal statement should also identify the Town's desire to maintain a portion of the property for civic use.

The committee agreed to continue to work to refine the committee's goals and objectives and discuss this at the December 20, 2006 meeting.

Public Input

The next portion of the meeting discussion centered on how to involve the public in this process.

Mr. Lancaster offered the idea of conducting a "design competition" to engage the public in the process of identifying possibilities and create ideas on how the 20 acres at OBMS should be developed and used.

Ms. Albright reported that several years ago the Town had conducted a design competition as part of the community's "Townscape". She briefly discussed that the design competition included the acres bound by the Municipal Building, Town Police Department, County's Blacksburg Library Branch, Doc Roberts and OBMS. Over 400 designs were received and a winner was selected. This resulted in a lot of citizens being involved. Not all of the winner's ideas were implemented by the winner and other design submittals remain a part of the Town's development plan.

Mr. Lancaster suggested that before the design competition begins that the group identify parameter which would result in generating income, but also include civic use.

Mr. Creed concurred with establishing parameter which focused on the generation of revenue and new income and also identify the Town's mix use which would include civic use. He mentioned that the development of OBMS would have a major impact on the Town and everyone wanted to get it correct the first time.

Mr. Lancaster thanked Mr. Creed for his comments and recognition of the future development of OBMS and its impact on the Town.

A brief discussion ensued in which the design competition was discussed; the possibility of conducting two design phases for which the second phase, including representatives from the business/development community, and who compete in the design competition.

Ms. Albright advised that she would contact Donna Dunay, Townscape, and discuss their possible involvement in the design competition. Ms. Dunay will be invited to attend the December 20, 2006 meeting.