

Re: QVSB responses

From: jasper william (bill_jasper@yahoo.com)

To: soderstromc@qvsd.org

Cc: helkowskid@qvsd.org; barnesg@qvsd.org; florog@qvsd.org; wattersj@qvsd.org; kuzmaj2@qvsd.org; doeblerk@qvsd.org; blackmerm@qvsd.org; nashs@qvsd.org; andreykot@qvsd.org; surloffa@qvsd.org; gauthierc@qvsd.org; deangelisc@qvsd.org; antolines@qvsd.org

Bcc: kimberly_gatesman@hotmail.com; lynn_truskie@hotmail.com; jkendall@laurelmountain.com; dcicccone50@gmail.com; brockmeanor@gmail.com; john.bunce73@gmail.com

Date: Thursday, June 22, 2023, 05:01 PM EDT

Hi Chesney,

I wish to create a public record on this matter.

My statements/questions posed at the recent meeting are attached for reference.

Regarding your letter:

The engineers at the meeting did not take issue with the geotechnical similarities of the two sites -- Kilbuck and Leet. What they said was: 1.) the developer [and by extension the municipal authorities] of the Kilbuck property did not exercise due care and 2.) they (QVSD's engineers) intend to provide an engineered solution to the landslide risk at the Leet site with the objective of taking the overall safety factor of the entire site from 1.0 to 1.5.

Understand I am skeptical of the latter based on what was said during the zoning hearing process. The QVSD engineers made the same promise about improving the site safety factor, the preliminary plan did indeed show benching beneath the site (above the 25 homes below); yet, the plan actually submitted to the zoning hearing board omitted this feature (see attached). When questioned (by me) about this omission, Geoff Philipps admitted under oath that the issue was cost. He said QVSD had instructed him to make the change. This testimony is documented in the transcript of the hearing.

Also, from the point of view of those who oppose the selection of the Leet site, what you are doing (road improvements, storm water management, some site stabilization) is just making the best of a bad situation and doing so at an unneeded, incremental cost. The risks of landslide, traffic and site security can be mitigated but not eliminated. It is expensive.

As the building has now been downsized, it seems to be far safer, less costly and the project much more certain of being completed, if QVSD re-developed the existing site. The recent construction of the Esmark building nullifies the previously perceived issue of building in a flood plain. At least three, experienced residential/commercial developers testified at the zoning hearings that it is less risky, less costly to build in a flood plain than on unstable soils.

It was interesting to hear at the recent school board meeting about QVSD's "stop-the-bleed" initiative. It bears directly on the relative safety of a high school site that is 3/4 to 1 mile further from first responders and over a mile further to the hospital in Sewickley. The school building, itself, is also to be situated far away the entry point from Camp Meeting Road, adding even further to a delayed response.

it is well-known, depending on the trauma, that a person can bleed out in five minutes. You tell me - and the intended occupants, friends and relatives of any intended occupants -- how the selection of a remote, more distant site is a safe choice. It is not. The added response time lessens the chance of survival in a dire emergency, including something as common as a heart attack.

Last, it is discouraging to hear of QVSD's refusal to devote resources ("chump change" for you) and take the time to consider the so-called "Plan B." It could be done over the summer and there would be many willing participants. If you were truly interested in serving the best interests of the community, you would do so. When circumstances evolve -- which they have -- a responsible fiduciary would pause, re-assess and change course as merited. That is your opportunity. It is sad to see it wasted.

Sincerely,

William B Jasper
Leetsdale

On Thursday, June 22, 2023, 12:09:34 PM EDT, Chesney Soderstrom <soderstromc@qvsd.org> wrote:



June 22, 2023

Mr. Bill Jasper
24 Winding Road
Leetsdale, PA 15056

Dear Mr. Jasper,

This message is in response to your comments from our Board Meeting on June 13th, in which you addressed the topic of the high school project. You shared several statements and random questions related to the safety of the site for which the district purchased several years ago. Since that time, the district has been engaged with many professionals to develop a site that is safe, aesthetically pleasing, and serves the proximal relationship to our 11 municipalities. Although you shared a comparison to the Killbuck site where the Walmart was designated to be built, your feedback in that regard was not validated by the engineers who were present at the meeting. The Board is committed to safety at all points in this project. Therefore, we are reviewing the geotechnical information based upon a now completed site plan and building design. We will not be engaging with a new firm as you also suggested, nor will we be regressing to a conversation related a "plan B" or some other approach that would be built on the current stadium.

We suggest that you review the significant research that is available on our website, www.qvsd.org/bluprintqv. Thank you for participating in our meeting.

Thank you,



Chesney Soderstrom
Board Member, Protocol Officer
QVSD Board of School Directors



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— SCHOOL DISTRICT —

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