

# Select Board Sidelines

## August 11, 2021

**Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in the Sidelines are the individual thoughts of the Select Board member.**

### **Submitted by Bill Lombardi**

We had another productive and full Select Board meeting this past week. It is terrific to see the amount of public interest. The participation speaks positively for the betterment of the Town of Union.

Town Owned Property: The main topic of discussion was the potential sale of the Coggins Hill property. The Village Soup provided a summary, so I won't restate all the details in this communication. Here is the link, Union board tables Coggins Hill property sale - Knox County Village Soup

Suffice it to say, the love for this property and desire to preserve the summit of Coggins Hill was clearly communicated. The full conversation can be viewed on the Town web site via Town Hall Streams.

Your Select Board decided that it would be in everyone's best interest to take additional time to review what would be best for the Town. The issue of the Coggins Hill acreage will be on the agenda at our next meeting on August 17.

Committee for the Future of the Thompson Community Center (CFTCC): This committee met via Zoom on August 4. The Director and Board of the TCC are aware that the committee is recommending to the Select Board that their lease be terminated. It is the expressed desire of the committee that a meeting with the current center director /board, Town Manager, Chair of this committee and a member of the Select Board can be arranged. The objective would be to see how things would look as we go forward.

The committee is developing three possible recommendations: (certainly this is tentative and is my summary based upon review of this meeting via Town Hall Streams on the Town website).

- 1.) The Town maintains ownership, uses a provider such as Siemens to renovate. A management structure would need to be developed.
- 2.) Sell the Buildings to a Rehabilitation Specialist to create a mixed-use facility.
- 3.) Lease or sell the property to an organization primarily for housing but also preserving community utilization.

There is a meeting scheduled for August 31 with the Select Board and the CFTCC committee.

Limited Emergency Proclamation: Remote participation in committee meetings (not the Select Board) will be allowed for the next 90 days starting August 3. This may be renewed or suspended.