

Pownal approves school roof repairs

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POWNAL — Townspeople voted on Monday night to allow the school board to spend up to \$350,000 to repair the roof of the Pownal Elementary School, though school officials said the project will likely not cost that much.

Replaced before school starts

Richard Pembroke, business manager of the Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union, said that the need for repair had been discovered recently.

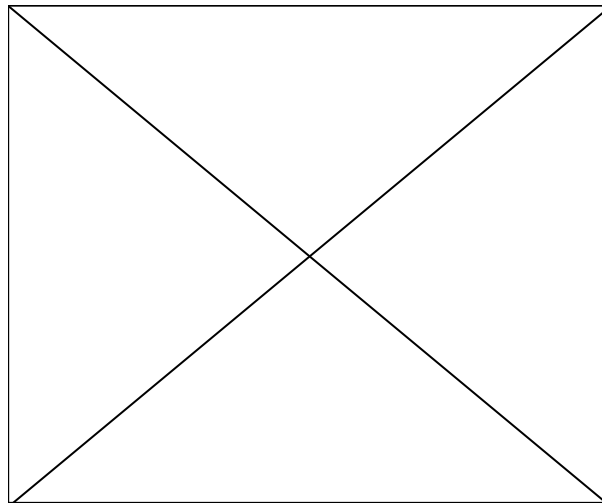
"A few months ago, shortly after the town meeting, our roofing inspectors came back and told us it was now time to replace the roof," Pembroke said. "Because of the urgency of the project, we had a little bit of a timing issue. The board was forced to hold this meeting quickly so the roof would be replaced before the next school year."

Pembroke said that certain factors will help make the replacement of the 32-year-old roof less expensive than it could be.

"We believe that the corrugated metal base of the roof is still in good shape," Pembroke said. "We did put out a contingency in the bid in case, once we tear the roof apart, we need to replace it."

Pembroke said that three companies responded to the bid, and Bennington firm Doxsee Roofing submitted the winning

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bid of \$174,734.

That amount, said Pembroke, includes money to better insulate the roof, which will, he believes, create break-even energy savings over the next three to five years.

Select Board Chairman Nelson Brownell asked how much of the roof was going to be replaced.

"The roof over the newer section of the school — the main roof," said School Board member Gudrun Hutchins. "The smaller part was redone recently."

Local resident James Kocsis asked Pembroke if a third party had examined the bid. Pembroke said one had, and the bid had been determined to be complete.

School board officials said the cost to taxpayers would likely be around two cents per \$1,000 assessed value. Pembroke said that the board had not yet determined how much it would borrow.

"We haven't sent out bids to local banks," Pembroke said, adding that it was very unlikely the board would have to borrow the entire amount.

The vote was to allow the board to spend up to \$350,000. Pembroke said it would be unlikely that the board would spend that amount, and that the board would be prohibited from spending that money on anything but the roof replacement.