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Town Hall painting estimate shrinks

By Steven Schwadron

Completing the renovation of Town Hall may cost the town a total of about \$2800 over the original \$56,200 bill, said Town Manager Robert Killoran, who last week quoted contractors' estimates of \$10-15,000.

The contractor's first estimate "left him room to protect himself," Killoran said. It appears now that with continued good weather, and crews working weekends, the contractor may be able to complete the job by the original deadline, he said.

Due to the reduced projected cost, Killoran may decrease his requested \$25,000 article for next month's special Town Meeting.

The new figure, which Killoran called "still a tentative estimate," also includes approximately \$4700 of credits to the town for contracted work which will not now be done. The belated change of the building's color will cost at least \$4600.

Killoran said that he has demanded "to see certified time sheets" for the remainder of the project. Town officials will spot-check to verify the reported number of workers on the job, he said.

The largest remaining question is whether the contractor can finish all of the work requiring use of the rented scaffolding. The scaffolding and necessary supervision costs \$1850 a month, he said.

The present rental-month ends on July 16. Retaining the equipment for "even a day, for any reason, including a

rainstorm" would cost the full \$1850.

Other extra costs incurred in the color change include \$2400 for trimwork recommended by the Art Commission, \$1550 for labor to re-cover the gold applied to the north surface, \$200 for another 21 gallons of paint, a \$300 restocking charge for the color exchange, and \$150 for transportation of the paint.

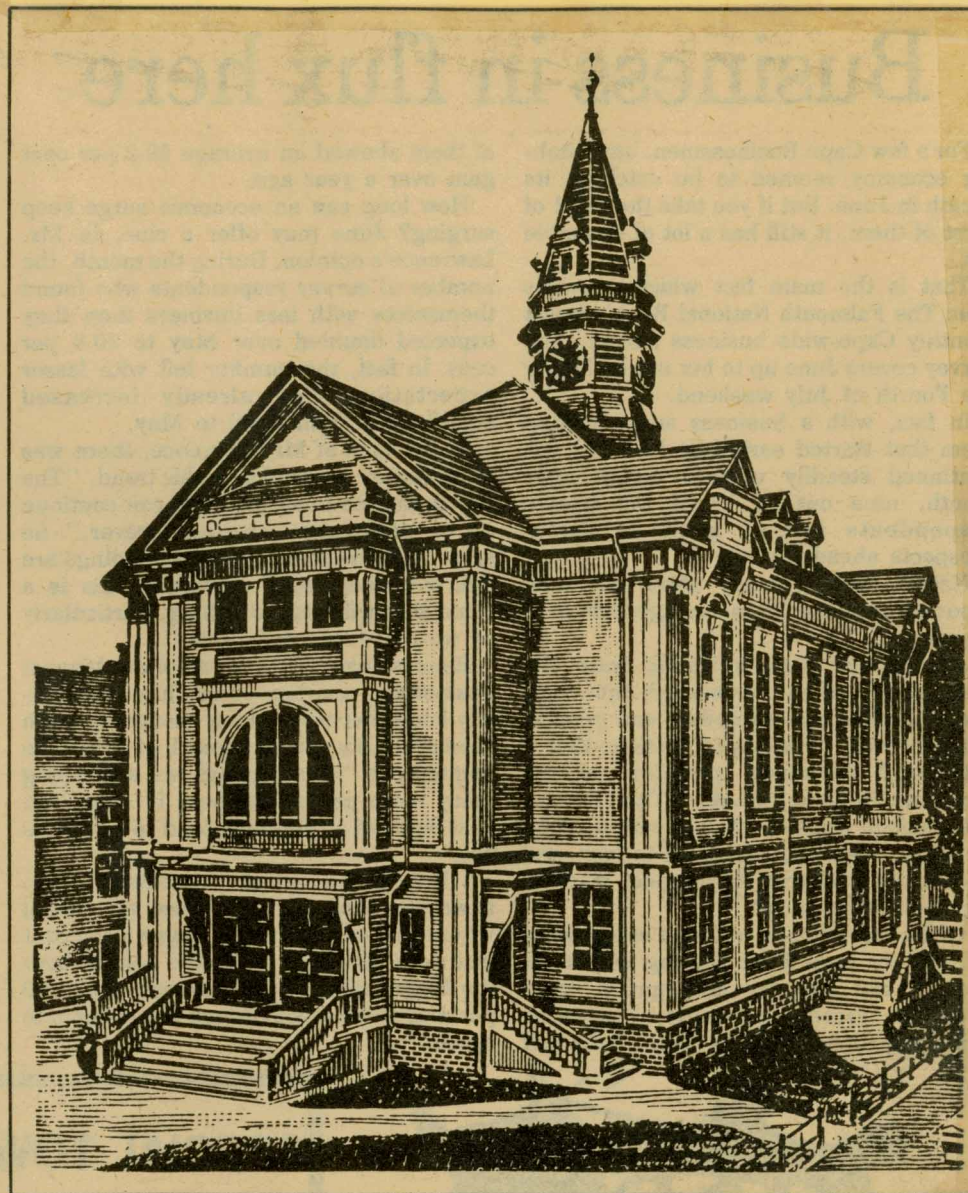
The town will save \$2800 by retaining, rather than replacing copper downspouts and gutters, as well as the eastern stairs, the town manager said. The contractor granted another \$2000 credit for cost reductions in repair of the fire escape and for delaying replacement of the storm windows.

Miscellaneous other costs, many of which were requested by former Acting Town Manager John Agnew, total about \$3200.

These charges include replacing rotted structural members, spoutpieces, broken or loose glass, cleaning gutters and applying 30 tubes of bird repellent to the roof.

At the last selectman's meeting, Joel O'Brien suggested that "architect Dan Sullivan should foot the bill for the added charges. I don't see why we should."

Perhaps in response, Killoran mentioned the following day that when the town arranges to install new storm windows before next winter, "the contractor will deal directly with me, as the town, not with any architect or designer."



Town Hall as it looked for its dedication, August 25, 1886.