

SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OFFICES COMMUNITY ROOM
25 BRYANTS LANE
MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2005
5:30 P.M. EXECUTIVE SESSION/6:00 P.M. MEETING

Members present: Selectman Peter Nicosia, Selectman Kevin O'Connor, Selectwoman Jacqueline Schnackertz, Selectman Richard Lemoine, and Selectwoman Karyn Puleo.

5:30 P.M. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Litigation Strategy/Whispering Pines

The Executive Session was canceled because of conflicting schedules.

I. CITIZENS' TIME

Chairman Nicosia asked if there were any citizen present who wished to speak. One resident Mr. Kevin Vadenais wished to comment on the proposed override question, the budgets and how it is a good idea to sell some town owned land and the fact that the problems is being looked at and the Board is trying to solve it. He has already felt an increase in taxes through the re-valuation. Chairman Nicosia reiterated the evening's discussions will be on the budget and the override question. The Town Accountant and the Town Treasurer will also be present to discuss. Mr. Vadenais was invited to stay for the meeting for more information.

II. CORRESPONDENCE

Selectwoman Schnackertz read the correspondence as submitted.

Motion by Selectwoman Schnackertz to accept the correspondence, second by Selectman O'Connor,
Vote – Unanimous

III. ACTION/DISCUSSION

A. Vote/2½ Override Ballot Question

The Board after a lengthy discussion on budget shortfalls and how best to remedy the situation voted the pyramid form with three amounts for the residents to choose.

Motion by Selectman O'Connor to place a general pyramid form override question on the ballot to afford the residents the opportunity to vote for or against the override, second by Selectwoman Puleo,
Vote – Unanimous

The continued the discussion on an amount to present to the residents taking into consideration the amounts the Board want to offer range from 1.0 mil to 2.25 mil with the consensus from the School Committee range from 1.5 to 2.25 and the Finance Committee Chairman speaking for himself at 1.75 mil. The Board proceeded to vote on three amounts to present to the residents.

Motion by Selectwoman Puleo for the first tier at 1.25 mil, second by Selectman Lemoine,
Vote – Discussions ensued and the motion was withdrawn.

A second try to place the higher amount first. A motion by Selectwoman Schnackertz to place 1.6 million dollars in the first tier, no second the motion fails.

There was more discussion on how to best place the amounts in the tiers with the highest first to the lowest and how the question is voted on. There was much input from residents who were present in the audience. After discussions the Board voted on the amounts for the three tiers.

Motion by Selectwoman Puleo to place 1.25 million dollars on the first tier, second by Selectman Lemoine,
Vote – Unanimous

Motion by Selectwoman Puleo to place 1.6 million dollars on the second tier, second by Selectwoman Schnackertz,
Vote – Unanimous

For the third tier there were discussions on what amounts will help alleviate the shortfall and may eliminate the user fees for sports the amounts range from 2.25 to 1.9. The Chairman entertained a motion from the Board for the amount of 2.25 million dollars for the third tier there was no motion.

Motion by Selectwoman Schnackertz to place 2.0 million dollars on the third tier, second by Selectwoman Puleo,
Vote 2 in favor 3 against the motion fails.

The three nay votes were Selectmen Lemoine, O'Connor and Nicosia.

Motion by Selectwoman Puleo to place 1.9 million dollars on the third tier, second by Selectwoman Schnackertz,
Vote – 3 in favor 2 against the motion passes.
The two nay votes were Selectmen O'Connor and Nicosia.

Motion by Selectwoman Puleo to place the general override question on the ballot in descending order, second by Selectman O'Connor,
Vote – Unanimous

B. FY06 Budget Discussion/Town Accountant and Town Treasurer
The treasurer and the accountant were present to discuss the budget shortfall and where to find the funds for FY 06. The shortfall on the municipal side is \$742,000. In researching the funding the financial officers could not find much in the way of the uncontrollable accounts because they are set rates. The only other place to look would be in personnel. The Selectmen have asked the financial officers to work with the uncontrollable accounts and the special revenue accounts that could be used and the Selectmen will work with the personnel issues.

C. Sign Lease/New Hwy Truck
Motion by Selectwoman Schnackertz to enter into a five year lease with the first payment to be \$9,525.00, second by Selectman O'Connor,
Vote – Unanimous

IV. ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTES
Informed everyone that the Town Report is being printed by the Greater Lowell Voke Students this year and will be ready on election day. And reminded everyone of the Recreation sponsored Shamrock Ball.

V. SELECTMEN'S NOTES
Selectwoman Schnackertz announced that Lt. Governor Healy was offering a seminar at the State House on the subject of Tax Tile Foreclosures and Delinquent Taxes. There were no other notes.

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VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Selectman O'Connor to adjourn the meeting, second by Selectwoman Puleo,
Vote – Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Therese Gay
Admin. Assist.