

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

* MINUTES *

May 4, 2016

6:50 p.m. A joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, and School Committee was convened by Chairman Matthew Borrelli at the Needham Town Hall. Present were Ms. Marianne Cooley, Mr. Daniel Matthews, Mr. John Bulian, Mr. Maurice Handel, Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick, Assistant Town Manager Christopher Coleman, and Assistant Town Manager David Davison.

Present for the School Committee were Chairman Sue Neckes, Connie Barr, Michael Greis, Aaron Pressman, and Andrea Longo Carter, along with Superintendent Dan Gutekanst and Director of Financial Services Anne Gulati.

Present for the Finance Committee were Chairman Louise Miller, Vice Chairman Rick Zimbone, Ken Lavery, Tom Jacob, Barry Coffman, Dick Reilly, Rick Lunetta, John Connelly, and Carol Fachetti, as well as Finance Committee Executive Secretary Louise Mizgerd.

Members of the Park and Recreation Commission were also in attendance including Chris Gerstel, Cindy Chaston and Michelle Geddes.

Mr. Borrelli called the meeting to order, and discussed the proposal to amend the Memorandum of Agreement between the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, and Park and Recreation Commission about the transfer of jurisdiction of land. Mr. Borrelli proposed that the boards approve an addendum to the original MOA stating that the portion of DeFazio Park transferred to the School Committee in active use for storage, garaging, and other uses related to the operations of the Department of Public Works will remain under the management of the Director of Public Works until Town Meeting approves the funding for construction of a school on that site; and the portion of Parcel 74 transferred to the Board of Selectmen will remain open and available for public use until Town Meeting approves funding for any future recommended use of the site. Discussion ensued.

Motion: Mr. Bulian moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the Addendum to the Memorandum of Agreement between the Board of Selectmen, School Committee and Park and Recreation Commission. Ms. Cooley seconded the motion. Unanimous: 5-0.

The School Committee also voted to approve the addendum, and Mr. Gerstel, Vice Chairman of the Park and Recreation

Commission, said that he would ask the Commission to approve the addendum at a future posted meeting.

Mr. Matthews noted that he had conversations with the Moderator that influenced the method by which the articles will be addressed at Town Meeting. He noted the importance of ensuring that the Owen's Farm property transfer is effected at this Town Meeting so that it can be represented to the MSBA that the parcel is under the jurisdiction of the School Committee. He said that because of the potential confusion, he recommended that Articles 29 – 34 be discussed and voted separately. He said that he would lay out the case for the package deal under Article 29. Ms. Miller said that it would have been helpful to understand the process prior to the meeting. Mr. Matthews said that he had been in contact with Mr. Connelly and did not mean to leave anyone out of the conversation. Mr. Connelly said that he would layout his remarks under Article 29. Ms. Longo Carter asked about the possibility of some of the articles' passing and others not. Mr. Matthews said that if one or more of the articles does not pass, the Agreement obligates the parties to hold future discussions and perhaps future recommendations to Town Meeting. He said that the Board was committed to working on the arrangement until all parties are in agreement. He further noted that if Article 33 fails, he would ask for a caucus and propose reconsideration of the article to address only the Owens Farm parcel. He noted that he had discussed this concept with the Moderator.

6:58 p.m. Motion: Mr. Bulian moved that the Board adjourn its meeting contemporaneously with the adjournment of Town Meeting. Ms. Cooley seconded the motion. Unanimous: 5-0.

Note: The Annual Town Meeting adjourned for the evening at 11:00 p.m.