

Minutes
Select Board Special Meeting
Thursday October 11, 2007
Police Station Community Room
5:00 pm

Chair Person Hal Haberman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Select Board Persons Hal Haberman, Paul Santaniello, Kathleen Grady and William Scibelli

Absent: Brian Ashe

Also present (as signed in): Town Manager Robin Crosbie; Recording Secretary Stacy Wieners and School Committee member C. Swanson.

Select Person Paul Santaniello asked for this meeting as a result of an email regarding a Public Forum being held by the Budget Strategies Committee. He was not informed of or officially invited to attend the forum, and he was a member of the Budget Strategies Committee. He added that Carla Gunn was also not informed of the Public Forum and she was the other member who voted against the \$2.15 million override. He stated that the Budget Strategies Committee did its job and the job is over therefore the Committee should no longer exist. He believes that the Select Board should be the only Board initiating the Public Forum as they are the body that voted to get the item on the Warrant.

Select Person William Scibelli thought that the Budget Strategies Committee did not have an expiration date and that the committee could meet to discuss a Plan B, should the override not pass at Town Meeting. He was under the impression that the Teacher Contract was the first priority for the group and they would continue budget discussions.

Select Person Kathleen Grady stated that the committee should be disbanded. She added that it did not do what it was charged to do; it did not follow any of the guidelines set by the Select Board when it was created. One example of this was instead of offering several options for the budget issues, one number was presented with nothing in writing backing it up or explaining it.

Select Board Chair Hal Haberman asked Town Manager Crosbie for her opinion about the committee. She believes that in concept the idea [of the committee] was good but not in practice. Projections prepared by the Finance Director were rejected by the school representatives and there was insufficient time to thoroughly review the numbers presented by the schools. She believes that the group did not represent all interests of the community. It would have been better to arrive at a consensus that the full Select Board could support. She also added that this committee should not drive the budget process. The budget process is clearly outlined in the charter.

Select Person Paul Santaniello would rather have full boards discuss Plan B and not sub groups. He wanted it stated that he is in no way trying to stop anyone from attending meetings or sharing their ideas.

Select Person Kathleen Grady stated that the Charter mandates that the Town Manager craft the Budget,

10/11/2007 Select Board Special Meeting Minutes

11/5/2007 Accepted with one correction.

- 2 -

which the Select Board approves and then sends to the Finance Committee.

Chair Person Hal Haberman feels that any advice is helpful and instructed that the topic be placed on the Agenda for Monday's meeting, in order for Select Person Brian Ashe to share his thoughts and have an opportunity to vote.

Select Person Paul Santaniello made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Select Person William Scibelli seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman called a vote and the motion carried unanimously. The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Wieners
Recording Secretary