

TOWN GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 1, 2014 – Minutes

Meeting called to order by the Chairperson at 6:04 p.m. and the Chairperson read the recording disclaimer.

Present: Chairperson: Phil Washko, Vice Chair: Bernie Roderick, Mark Badwey, Rich Griffiths, Siobhan Henebury, Pattie Pacella and G. Steve Riley.

Absent: Dick Douglass & Linda Meredith

AGENDA:

Review/approve minutes: April 24, 2014

Bernie Roderick made a motion to approve the April 24, 2014 minutes as presented and was seconded by Pattie Pacella. The motion passed unanimously.

Opening Public Comment:

None.

Discussion and Review of Precinct Meetings:

Pattie Pacella expressed disappointment in the Board of Selectman at not having our Committee at their Meeting on Monday, April 28th as they were discussing our articles and needed some point of clarification. She expressed that she did speak to both Mr. Murphy and Mr. Espindola after the precinct meetings, but wasn't able to speak to Mr. Haworth (he was not present).

Discussion ensued and thoughts revolving around precinct meetings.

Steve Riley said he thought the Board of Selectman need to have a more broader view of the TA.

Bernie Roderick read from The Advocate the verbiage that the Board of Selectman said about the TA position and shared his disappointment in them as well.

Phil Washko reminded everyone that our task is to recommend and back it up.

Bernie Roderick expressed disagreement.

Steve Riley said he didn't think the BOS should have voted for an indefinite postponement. (The BOS voted 2-1, with Charlie Murphy voting in oppose to indefinite postponement.)

Bernie Roderick felt it was an insult.

Discussion ensued.

Phil Washko asked the Committee how everyone felt about what the balance is, it should be a collective decision.

Siobhan Henebury said she felt the comment, "it's too much" that one of the Selectman said was ridiculous. She thought we should just make the recommendation and back it up.

Rich Griffiths said that some change is required.

Steve Riley said that a lot of people are afraid of change, and that we should move forward to get the process started by recommending what we have.

Pattie Pacella said she agreed with pushing through the TA but wasn't sure if they should consider amending the BPW structure.

Mark Badwey expressed that the TA was intact and we should go forth with that, with perhaps the intent to change BPW.

Bernie Roderick said we had an obligation to push the TA forward.

Mark Badwey said the TA sets the culture for the Town.

Discussion ensued.

More discussion ensued on whether to amend the TA article and push back the BPW article.

Phil Washko explained that someone may recommend at Town Meeting to discuss Article 31 (BPW Article) first.

More discussion. Phil Washko and Siobhan Henebury believed we should move forward with both articles as we have them.

Mark Badwey said he could see one of the two articles being confusing.

Bernie Roderick expressed with a professional approach we should continue.

Phil Washko took a straw vote on who wanted to make amendments to any of the articles and it was voted 3-2, to not make any changes. (Bernie Roderick and Pattie Pacella voting 'too' make the changes.)

More discussion on article order.

Phil Washko advised that the Board did quite a bit of work on the Articles and that we all made it happened and agreed on them. We need to just move forward and believe in our work.

Discussion on potential questions and answers.

Next Meeting will be May 8, 2014 to recap Town Meeting.

Pattie Pacella made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mark Badwey. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting ended at 8:01 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Patricia A Pacella
Recording Secretary