

Town Council and School Board Special Joint Meeting
March 31, 2010
DRAFT Minutes

The meeting opened at 7:02 pm.

Roll Call

Councilors Libby, Rodden, Armitage, Breen, Chase and Pierce were present and answering roll call. Councilor Payne arrived at 7:22.

Item 1 Presentation and Discussion of the Fiscal Year 2011 Proposed Budget.

Analiase Larson chair of the schools finance committee introduced Superintendent Barbara Powers and Finance Director Dan O'Shea who presented the Schools proposed budget.

Town Manager Nathan Poore presented the proposed municipal budget. The proposed school and the municipal budgets can be found on the Town of Falmouth website www.town.falmouth.me.us

Item 2 Public Forum to seek public input and inquiries relative to the Fiscal Year 2011 Proposed Budget.

Chair Breen opened the public hearing.

Tim Sabo, 16 Springpoint Lane spoke about the zero tax increase and the impact on the school and town budget. Mr. Sabo feels in order to sustain quality of schools and the town property taxes should be raised.

Dave Snow, 8 Tersion Drive possible savings on the school budget with smaller buses, possible parking permits and the Town's unfunded liability for retirement rating. Mr. Snow recommended discontinuing the curbside recycling.

Beth Franklin recognized the hard work done by the school district faculty and the leadership council.

Michael Doyle, 3 Shady Lane spoke of Metro Bus and his conversations with Councilor Bonny Rodden. Mr. Doyle also spoke of the State's shortfall.

John Graustein 57 Waits Landing Road asked if the teacher's contract being negotiated was a one year contract. Mr. Graustein spoke of the teacher student ratio and the relation to other states. Mr. Graustein asked for an outside review by an outside consultant to explain the high ratio of teachers similar to the City of Portland study.

Chair Breen responded; the contract is or one year.

Bill Gardiner Underwood Drive asked for clarification on if the total municipal budget would be spent and if there would be any wage increases. Mr. Gardiner asked if the school employee contracts were signed. Who charged the school board with new revenues? Mr. Gardiner suggested the steps and benefit packages should be looked at for the teachers.

Nathan Poore responded the municipal budget does not have any additional funds that are not expected to be used and there would not be any non-union wage increases. Superintendent Barbara Powers confirmed the school teacher contracts were not signed. School Board Chair Beth Franklin stated the charge came from public comment and input.

James Solley 17 Pinehurst Lane suggested a closer strategic look at the forecast for 2012 and to make more heavy cuts to prepare for the shortfalls next year. Mr. Solley stated the contingencies have been reduced when that should have been increased.

Audrey Grassman 20 Stonecrest Drive recognized the continuing reduction in State aid and the negative impact on the students. Ms. Grassman also commended the cooperation between the Leadership Council and the williness from the teachers to make sure they made it work.

Mark Richard 25 Brookside thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication. Mr. Richard asked if the tough decisions were being made for the sustainability of tomorrow. Mr. Richard asked where we would be next year. Can we do better today?

Chair Breen closed the public forum.
The meeting took a break.
9:15 back in session

Item 3 Appointment of 10 people to the MDOT Martin's Point Project Stakeholder Group

Councilor Libby motioned to recommend the following individuals; Richard Weir, Steve Tietjen, Eric Wiberg, Adrian Fox, Julie MacDonald, Holly Winger, Anne Goggin, Mayor Fistal, and Robert Fisk Jr. to serve in a Maine Department of Transportation Stakeholder Group process relative to the Martin's Point Bridge Reconstruction Project: Councilor Armitage seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilor Rodden motioned to nominate Councilor Payne as the primary and Councilor Rodden as the alternate to the MDOT Martin's Point Project Stakeholder Group. Councilor Pierce seconded, Motion carried 7-0.

Adjourn

Councilor Libby motioned to adjourn; Councilor Armitage seconded. Motion carried 7-0
Meeting adjourned at 9:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Planer,
Town Clerk

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