

## SELECT BOARD PUBLIC HEARING & MEETING MINUTES

January 19, 2016

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Board members present: Chairwoman Dennis, Selectman Bugbee and Selectman LaCourse

Others present: Cary Brown, Bill Callen, Phil Stetson, John and Judy MacDonald, John and Anne Tappan, Paul Gasowski, Chief Dronsfield, Town Secretary Denise Duval and Town Administrator Julie Glover.

1. Chairwoman Dennis calls the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and asks if the Select Board accepts the Agenda as presented. It does.
2. Chairwoman Dennis opens the meeting up to general public comment.

Maria Barth, Birch Hill Road, wants to thank the Town of Lee for the excellent job that they do plowing the roads. Birch Hill Road is ½ Lee and ½ Epping. When she walks her dogs she feels safe walking on the Lee half.

3. Chairwoman Dennis opens the Public Hearing for the Racetrack at 6:01pm and opens the meeting up to public comment relating to the Racetrack. There is none.

Bill Callen, the Lee USA Speedway general manager, presents the schedule. Mr. Callen has reviewed the schedule that the Town Secretary has presented and it is accurate. He points out that in May there will not be a special Sunday race as there has been in past years. The rest of the dates are very similar to last year's schedule. There aren't any added dates. The October dates are backup dates should they need make-up dates for the Octoberfest weekend. They have worked very hard on their Friday night program and they finish by 10pm virtually every weekend.

Chairwoman Dennis closes the public hearing at 6:05pm.

Chairwoman Dennis moves to accept the Lee USA Speedway's 2016 proposed operation schedule and grant them a license, subject to the conditions imposed by the Lee Racetrack Ordinance, including inspections by the Building Inspector, Fire Chief, Police Chief and submission of certificate of insurance to the Town Administrator. Selectman LaCourse, seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**

4. Dr. Morse presents the Oyster River Cooperative School District FY17 Town Budget. Before Dr. Morse begins he introduces the new Oyster River Assistant Superintendent Todd Allen who is a long time resident of Lee. He also used to be the High School Principal. Denise Day is a school board member representing Durham and Maria Barth is a school board member representing Lee.

Dr. Morse states that there is no new staff in this budget. The only increases represented in this budget are health insurance and salary increases that were negotiated with the unions in the amount of \$600,000. The Board made a goal for this school year that in the next school year they would have full day kindergarten. They achieved that by moving money inside the proposed budget, not adding new money to the budget. The proposed insurance cost increase for next year is 16.8%. This cost by itself represents a point and a half increase in the school budget according to Dr. Morse. They are looking at multiple middle school replacement options. Dr. Morse states that the Middle School continues to perform at a high level and for 5 years running they have had 100% graduation rate which includes the special education students. Dr. Morse wants to talk about the Barrington agreement because this is the first year

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that they have reported out with a trend. That trend is they said when they asked the voters to support the agreement that they would spend most of that money on tax relief and the chart shows they have hired 2.9 people during that same 3 year period they have collected over 3 million dollars in tuition. Dr. Morse states that they have spent less than 10% of the 3 million dollars on staff and the other 90% is being used to mitigate taxes. They project Barrington's contribution to go up by a million and a half dollars next year. He states that the Barrington kids have transitioned into their high school very smoothly and their academic performance by the time they are seniors is competitive with their own kids. The proposed FY17 budget including the warrant articles will increase their budget by 2.9%.

The first school budget warrant article to be discussed is regarding the fields. Dr. Morse turns the presentation over to Todd Allen and Corey Parker to talk about Article #3 which asks the voters to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1.9 million for the renovation and construction of athletic fields and a track at Oyster River High School. Mr. Allen states that this project goes back 18 years during which volunteers have raised \$300,000 which is in an expendable trust fund specifically for the construction of an all-weather track at the high school. During the middle of the 2000's the priority of this project faded, but in 2012 the school board agreed it was time to start re-looking at this issue because the student participation in athletics continues to grow. Last year this project was put forward and because the bond required a 60% majority to pass, it did not pass with 56% support. The school board put together a community committee last spring to take a look at this issue and make some recommendations on how to retool the project in hopes of making this happen. Two changes came out of this committee review. First, the material used was changed from a carcinogen based material to one that is not. Second, the cost of the bond was reduced by \$200,000. Corey Parker wants to make sure that people understand that this isn't just a track or a turf field. This is a complete over haul of the entire property behind the high school which in turn will be used by every athletic team and physical education class. Key component is the inside track. One does not exist in this district. They rent from UNH. Todd Allen joins back in to sum up that the total cost of the project is \$2.2 million. \$300,000 is in the expendable trust fund for the track. \$400,000 is coming from a health insurance lawsuit settlement which originated from a sum of money that was used to add the cafeteria at the Moharimet School. The proposed bond is \$1.5 million.

Dr. Morse goes through Articles #4-8.

Selectman LaCourse asks if there is a plan in place for replacing buses. Dr. Morse says that this is part of their 10 year strategic plan based on the mileage on the buses and/or vans. Unfortunately, there were several years when budgets were extremely tight and buses were not purchased so that created a bottle neck of buses that should have been taken off the road a number of years ago. Instead money was spent to refurbish them. Now there are about 6 buses left to replace.

Selectman LaCourse asks what will happen to the \$400,000 if the bond for the field does not pass. Mr. Morse says it will go back into the Capital Reserve Trust Fund.

Selectman Bugbee asks if they are going to have to add any more teachers for the kindergarten students when they come. Mr. Morse says yes but they will be careful not to over hire.

Selectman Bugbee asks what the difference is between the NECAP (New England Common Assessment Program) and Smarter Balanced Assessment tests. Dr. Morse states that the Smarter Balanced Assessment is based more on the common core expectations. Unfortunately they are not compared so there is no trend data to view. Selectman Bugbee asks for the number of kids that go to Moharimet from Lee. Dr. Morse states that the number is very small. No more

than half dozen. Dr. Morse does not have a current update on the lawsuit involving Dover School and the State.

Selectman Bugbee asks if they are thinking about illuminating the track. Mr. Allen states that there are a number of items that they would like to add and fund raise for, lighting being one of them.

TA Glover asks, in light of the large increase to the health insurance, if the school board and the administration have talked at all about looking at changing their health insurance carrier and/or plan. The town just recently changed their plan and has seen a decrease in the cost. Dr. Morse states that in the last 3 years every negotiated agreement the Board has entered into has shifted more of the burden from the district to the employee. The Board is very interested in what other providers would offer the district so tomorrow night the Board is listening to a presentation by School Care about health insurance in general across the State of NH. The last time they submitted a bid it was identical to the Health Trust. Harvard Pilgrim is also a contender. HealthTrust might have a better plan for the district now than they have had in the past.

TA Glover reiterates what Dr. Morse said earlier which was that the Barrington tuition over the last 3 years has mitigated the taxes for the three towns which according to the numbers he supplied would be \$2.7 million. Glover asks how has the \$2.7 million mitigated taxes? Dr. Morse states that it has done so in two ways. One is that the \$2.7 million would have been turned into an ask of the voters and second is that it saved them from having to cut programs for the high school, middle and elementary school. TA Glover clarifies that the \$2.7 million was used to fund increases within the operating budget that otherwise would have been paid by raising taxes. Dr. Morse says 'yes that is one way of looking at it'.

TA Glover asks if the \$500,000 in Warrant Article #6 could include the \$400,000 in Warrant Article #3 depending on what the vote is. In other words, it's not \$500,000 and \$400,000. Dr. Morse says yes.

TA Glover says that it looks like they are planning on spending in a variety of ways a significant amount of the unassigned fund balance. Does that mean that none of that will be available for the municipalities to reduce the tax rate? Dr. Morse says not necessarily. This number is a place holder. Dr. Morse says that the School Board will have that conversation and she is welcome to come to entertain that question.

5. a) TA Glover informs the Board that Town Secretary, Denise Duval, is the Town's new Wellness Coordinator. Denise recently participated in the Wellness training at the Health Trust. One of the benefits is that the Town received a check in the amount of \$500 to be used for various wellness programs. TA would ask the Board to accept the check and to appropriate the funds for employee wellness programs to be determined at a later date.  
Chairwoman Dennis moves to grant Lee Town employees permission to participate in campaigns within the Health Trust Wellness Program as presented by the Wellness Coordinator throughout the 2016 calendar year and approve the expenditure of \$500.00 received from the Health Trust for the Wellness Program to be spent on campaigns within the Wellness Program. Selectman Bugbee, seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**

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b) TA Glover informs the Board that Candace Pratt has offered to be the official photographer for the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration to the extent that she is available to attend any or all of the events. The photographs will be available to the Town committee and commissions at no cost for its promotions and posting on the website, etc. In exchange for that, Ms. Pratt is asking to be able to sell the photos produced for her business.

Chairwoman Dennis moves to accept the agreement as presented by Candace Pratt. Selectman Bugbee, seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**

c) TA Glover presents the Final FY17 Operating Budget and Warrant for the Board's signature. The total budget being presented is \$3,807,523.00. Chairwoman Dennis moves to approve the FY17 Operating Budget and Warrant. Selectman LaCourse, seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**

d) TA Glover informs the Board that the Heritage Commission has recently requested to begin moving their archival materials into the new records room and requesting chairs and tables, etc. After discussion, the Select Board determines that the records room should be used for town records first. The municipal records committee by statute must have the Select Board or its designee (TA), the Town Treasurer, the Assessor and the Town Clerk/Tax Collector. Our committee has a few others participating such as the Police Chief and the Heritage Commission member. A debate has developed as to who has dominance over the new records room. The TA's position is that it is for town records which includes a list that is quite lengthy. The statute clearly states that the Town Clerk is responsible for all books, records, papers, vouchers, documents which shall be in the possession of any office, committee, and board of officers of the town deposited in the Office of the Town Clerk and kept there and preserved. If the Office of the Town Clerk cannot hold them all then the Clerk may with the approval of the Select Board deposit records somewhere else.

This is not to say that any of the documents or archives that the Heritage Commission has aren't valuable. We are talking about two different things. Town records that we have to preserve and anything else that we want to preserve. TA Glover is looking for direction from the Select Board as to how far she should continue to try to push the position that that room is for the town records as determined by the Town Clerk and the Select Board. If there is any other room, they will be happy to try to accommodate them.

The storage container that was purchased for the Heritage Commission probably is not appropriate for records storage because it is not climate controlled. The police department has already outgrown its storage space and will be taking over the Bunk Room which was being used as spare meeting space.

Selectman LaCourse states while he believes that historical records are very important he thinks that municipal records should take precedence at this point. He does not have a problem with a pecking order; municipal first, but he hopes that a place can be found for all the other documents as well.

There is further discussion relating to the metal storage container. Chairwoman Dennis is clear on what the statute says regarding municipal records and that they would come before heritage. She agrees that those other records are important also.



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Chief Dronsfield states that he and Chief Nemet have discussed using the metal storage container for storage here at the PSC for equipment storage. Chief Dronsfield adds that there may be some storage in the computer server room that the Heritage Commission can use after they secure the server.

At the next municipal records committee meeting the TA will report back that the town records will take priority in the new records room and have a discussion with them about where the town reports are and that they will go into the new records room as town documents.

e) TA Glover will be out of town next Monday.

6. Chairwoman Dennis moves to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Selectman Bugbee, seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**
7. Chairwoman Dennis moves to accept the Select Board Public Meeting Minutes from January 4, 2016. Selectman Bugbee, seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**
8. Chairwoman Dennis moves to accept Manifest #14 and Weeks Payroll ending January 17, 2016. Selectman Bugbee, seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**
9. Selectman LaCourse asks for clarification on the question that the TA asked Dr. Morse regarding the Barrington tuition. TA states that it was a net \$2.7 million over 3 years and it was used to help absorb increases in the operating budget.
10. Chairwoman Dennis motions to adjourn at 7:27 pm. Selectman Bugbee, seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**

Minutes transcribed by:

  
Denise Duval, Town Secretary

2/1/16  
Date

Minutes accepted by The Lee Select Board:

  
Carole Dennis, Chairwoman

  
Scott Bugbee

  
John LaCourse