

Board of Selectmen Meeting  
January 16, 2004  
2:30pm – Mary Herbert Conference Room  
Approved 2/23/04

Lloyd Sullivan, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Those present were: Selectman Paul Cuetara and Selectwoman Jenifer Landman. Mike Pardue, Town Administrator was unavailable. Ms. Landman took minutes.

In the audience were: Judy Day, Larry Miller, Laurel Pohl, Arthur Brady and John Peddler, Reporter.

Mr. Sullivan announced that the Board of Selectmen had two citizens' petitions involving Town funds, on which the selectmen had to vote to "recommend" or "not recommend" prior to the Budget Hearing and asked for motions.

Ms. Landman made a motion that the Board of Selectmen vote "not to recommend" Article 29, a petition of Robert Strout to construct a new highway department garage and maintenance facility at the Cherry Road site for \$850,000 from the undesignated fund balance. (Full text in the Town Report.) Paul Cuetara seconded the motion. A short discussion followed.

Mr. Cuetara said that he agreed with Mr. Sullivan's statement at the last Board meeting, that asking the townspeople to vote in two large projects in one year would probably cause both to fail.

Ms. Landman read a letter from Stanley W. Knowles, former selectman and resident of 66 years, stating his reasons against this petition. His letter was made an official part of these minutes as an attachment.

Ms. Landman said that her reasons had to do with fiscal responsibility, in that if this petition were to pass, it would lower the undesignated fund balance much too low. She considered the location undesirable because it was in a quaint residential section, the building would be constructed too close to residential housing, and the character of the neighborhood would be unfavorably changed. She agreed with Mr. Knowles that the lot size was too small for future needs, and investing \$850,000 in a building on a lot too small to accommodate for growth was unwise. She had many more reasons, but Mr. Sullivan called the vote.

Ms. Landman and Mr. Cuetara voted not to recommend. Mr. Sullivan voted against the motion.  
Vote: 2-1 "not to recommend".

Ms. Landman made a motion to recommend Article 28, a petition of Deborah Sillay to contribute \$1,500 to the Seacoast Diversion Program, a non-profit agency for at-risk children and families. (Full text in the Town Report.) Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. Mr. Cuetara recused himself as having previously volunteered with this non-profit organization. Landman voted to recommend; Sullivan not to recommend; Cuetara recused.  
Vote: 1-1-0

Mr. Sullivan asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Landman asked that the audience to be allowed to speak. Mr. Sullivan denied the request. Mr. Cuetara made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Sullivan seconded. Vote: 2-1, with Ms. Landman voting against.

Meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted January 16, 2004.  
Jenifer Landman, Selectwoman