

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**MARCH 6, 2013**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**

Members Present: Francis Cavaco, Robert McLintock, Gary Sagar,  
David Parker, Nelson Almeida

Finance Director: Bruce Alexander

Executive Assistant: Anne P. Rogers

Chairman Cavaco called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence. He announced the meeting was to discuss the special town meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 27, 2013, at 7 p.m. The Chair would not take comments from the audience.

Mr. Sagar stated that there appeared to be a religious issue. The Board has never used a religious calendar to schedule a meeting. The founding forefathers went through great pains to maintain a separation of church and state. He would not support the March 27<sup>th</sup> date if it is because of religion. He noted that March 27 is a holiday in the Hindu faith. Once they start doing that it will have to be done for all religions or be subject to ACLU and other groups. Further, when the Board met to decide on the date it was mentioned that it was Passover and it was not an issue. It has never been an issue. He would support it only for convenience to move from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of March.

Mr. McLintock stated that he is torn between a number of things. The Board knew March 25<sup>th</sup> was a holiday for the Jewish community, and it didn't appear to be an issue. This has turned political because of the upcoming election. A mistake was made in the first warrant. It is up to the Board of Selectmen to conduct business in a fashion that meets the needs of the community. Some people politically stepped in.

He spoke to a friend in the Jewish community who told him it would not be a problem. He felt that politics should go to the background where it should be rather than jabbing every single thing that takes place in this town.

Mr. McLintock noted that the previous night five architectural firms were selected for the senior center building. He was sure that many people have heard that it is at a standstill.

Mr. Almeida apologized to residents. He was one of the members who signed the warrant without noticing the date. He was not in favor of March 27 and not sure it falls under the proper notifications made.

Mr. Parker said it has to appear in the newspaper within 21 days.

Ms. Rogers stated that it was in today's newspaper to meet the 21-day deadline.

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Mr. Parker indicated he would not support this for two reasons – it was placed in the newspaper without the Board's approval or, if it is not in the newspaper, it would not meet the 21 days.

Mr. McLintock stated that too many times documents are brought before the Board for signatures at the last minute. That needs to change.

Mr. Alexander had a copy of the bylaws which read 21 days.

Chairman Cavaco said that legal counsel ruled it would meet the 21 days if the Board voted today. Town Counsel had conversations with the Town Clerk and indicated it would not be a problem.

Mr. McLintock said it would not be the first time that legal counsel gave the wrong information.

He noted that Ms. Roger is not responsible.

Town Treasurer Christine DeFontes responded to questions about bond counsel.

A short recess was held at this time to allow the Chairman to get a newspaper from his car and for Mrs. DeFontes to contact bond counsel.

Mrs. DeFontes advised that bond counsel said as long as the 21-days are met for posting.

Mr. Almeida felt it is totally wrong in so many ways. He suggested the first week of April.

Mr. McLintock said they need to move forward on the 27<sup>th</sup>. He understood Mr. Almeida's comments. This came out of the Selectmen's office. It is an error that seems to be repeating itself over and over again, but that is another issue.

Mr. Sagar said that March 27<sup>th</sup> seems to be OK by majority of the Board members. It is in the Town's best interest to move forward and he fully supports it as long as it is not for religious reasons.

He felt the town meeting should be held before the ballot question to include an amount.

Mr. Almeida said he would attend but he does not support it.

Mr. Parker suggested the second week in April so that it could be done properly.

Chairman Cavaco apologized to the Chairman of the School Committee for what he was about to say. He said that Article 5 is for funding to upgrade security in the schools and if there is an

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incident in the schools, the burden would be on the Board of Selectmen. The children have got to be protected. This article has to go forward and residents have to vote on it. If the article is approved on March 27<sup>th</sup>, the School Department could go forward with upgrades. He apologized for giving out this information because it might be an invitation for people with mental issues to attack the schools.

Mr. Almeida said he has faith in the school system. This concern was addressed in November. He felt it could wait an additional two weeks to get it done correctly.

Chairman Cavaco mentioned the incident in Newtown, Connecticut.

Mr. Sagar noted that the special town meeting was originally scheduled for the Banna Fire Station.

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. McLintock, and it was

**VOTED:** 3 Ayes; 2 Nays; To schedule the special town meeting on  
Wednesday, March 27, 2013.

The vote: Mr. Sagar – Aye; Mr. McLintock – Aye; Chairman Cavaco – Aye; Mr. Parker – Nay;  
Mr. Almeida – Nay.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To dissolve at 11:48 a.m.

The vote: Mr. Parker – Aye; Mr. Sagar – Aye; Mr. Almeida – Aye; Mr. McLintock – Aye;  
Chairman Cavaco – Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary S. Sagar, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary