

Minutes of Capital Planning Committee meeting.

Thursday, January 28, 2016, 7:30 p.m. at Town Building

Members present: Steve Jelinek, Chair, Ross Perry, Dave Arsenault, Jim Salvie

1. Minuteman Voke.

The committee met with Ed Bouquillon, Superintendent of Minuteman Vocational Regional High School, and Alice Deluca, Stow's representative to the Minuteman school committee, concerning Article 1 at the upcoming Special Town Meeting.

Dr. Bouquillon summarized the proposed amendments to the Regional Agreement governing the District. The proposed amendments would, among other things, allow further amendment by less than a unanimous vote of all districts, create weighted voting on the School Committee, provide for capital charges to out of district towns that send students, to Minuteman, and create a policy of pro-rata operational and capital charges to out of district towns. The amendments would also allow seven towns to exit the district at this time, which would facilitate the commencement of a building project for a new school. Mr. Bouquillon stated that he does not expect all seven to exit. The state MSBA had approved funding 44% such a project two days earlier. Because the proposed amendments are being considered under the current, unamended agreement, to be effective they must be approved by the town meetings of all district towns, all of which are scheduled for February.

The Committee discussed with Dr. Bouquillon and Ms. Deluca, among other things, the high per pupil costs, and high square foot per pupil numbers of the proposed new building, compared with other vocational schools. The Committee took questions and comments from the audience. It was noted that the building project itself is not the subject of Article 1 at the upcoming STM and will be considered later, if at all, most likely in the spring. The current STM concerns only the proposed governance changes which, members of the Committee felt, make exiting the District easier if the town considers that the wisest course in the future.

The Committee thanked Dr. Bouquillon and Ms. Deluca for their input and their time.

2. Recommendation at February 1 Special Town Meeting.

Since Article 1 concerns only governance changes and not the building project itself, it was the consensus of the members present that a recommendation by the Committee at the Feb. 1 STM would be inappropriate and unnecessary. Similarly, Article 2 concerns the implementation of a policy, not a capital building project. Mr. Jelinek agreed to inform the moderator that the Committee would not be making a recommendation at STM.

3. Reorganization.

Mr. Perry nominated Mr. Jelinek for another term as Chair for 2016, Mr. Salvie seconded, and all voted in favor.

Mr. Jelinek nominated Mr. Salvie to serve as Clerk for 2016, Mr. Arsenault seconded, and all voted in favor.

4. Meeting Schedule.

The Committee discussed meeting dates to consider projects for the fiscal 2017 budget season. The Committee tentatively agreed to meet on February 25, March 3, and March 10. Mr. Jelinek will coordinate with department heads.

There being no further business, Mr. Perry moved to adjourn at 9:06 p.m, Mr. Salvie seconded and all voted in favor.

James Salvie, Clerk