

April 12, 2004

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
APRIL 12, 2004**

Present: Arnold Wilson, Chairman
Charles Blanchard
David Schmida
Hal White
Doris Sosik
James Malloy, Town Administrator

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

**Article #34 – Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Use Regulations –
Industrial Park District (IP) (requires 2/3 vote of Town Meeting)**

MOTION: To recommend approval of Article #34, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: Four in favor; A.Wilson opposed.

C. Blanchard commented that fuel oil distribution is a proper use in the industrial park district; it is not a retail use. A.Wilson said that it should be an allowed use in the Town of Sturbridge, but he felt that the industrial park district was the wrong place for it.

Article #3 – Town Budget

A.Wilson suggested that the Board hold action on the Burgess and Tantasqua budgets until after the discussion with Kathleen Reynolds, Superintendent. C. Blanchard noted that J. Malloy had given the Board several options, including a possible compromise, indicating that the Finance Committee had voted to approve the Burgess budget and voted to approve the foundation budget for the Tantasqua budget. C. Blanchard said that it is important to make every effort to try to have the Town and the school go forward with a common recommendation to Town Meeting. J. Malloy had recommended, in his email dated April 9th, a reduction in the Burgess and Tantasqua budgets. If the school administration feels that they couldn't live with the Burgess or Tantasqua reduction, then they have the option at that point to try to go for a proposition 2 ½ override. It is unrealistic to think that the Town can absorb the 30.8% increase in Tantasqua because of the change in the formula, without having an override. He said that the most realistic thing to do would be to go to the school to see if they can reduce the budget to the amount that J. Malloy recommended. D. Sosik agreed. She said that it would be unrealistic to expect the Town to cut \$550,000 in services, and to get a proposition 2 ½

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override for municipal services is not as likely to happen as getting an override for the schools. D. Schmida disagreed. He indicated that he was not sure than an override would pass for the schools, and that Tantasqua and Burgess should realize that the reductions they are being asked to take are real, and they need to work toward those goals. He expressed concern that if the foundation budget is voted, and it does not have a proposition 2 ½ override, then the Town will be stuck with having to make \$550,000 in cuts to town services. A.Wilson felt that he could support the Burgess budget as it is, and the town budget as it is, and the Tantasqua budget at the foundation budget level. A.Wilson suggested that the Board follow the lead of the Finance Committee at this point. H. White said that the Board should meet with the Superintendent and discuss the matter with her before voting. C. Blanchard suggested that the Board be proactive, and vote J. Malloy's recommendation in concept, until getting the final Chapter 70 funds.

J. Malloy said that he had tried to give the Board a range of options. He said that a compromise might be the best solution, given the history of proposition 2 ½ overrides in this community. He suggested contacting the school and indicating that there is a willingness to discuss a compromise, and balancing the reductions between Tantasqua and Burgess, and using some additional free cash, but not the level that the School Department recommends using.

A.Wilson noted that the Town employees were informed that the Town could not afford to give them more than a 3% increase, while the Superintendent will receive an increase of 8.3%, the Business Manager 7.1% and school clerical salaries are up 8.5%. A.Wilson said that there should be a cut from the schools' operating expenses. He would rather use free cash and stabilization fund money to fund town government.

It was the consensus of the Board to go forward with the context of J. Malloy's memo, and to work toward a compromise.

Article #4 – Water Department

Article #5 – Sewer Department

It was the consensus of the Board to hold action until Town Meeting, pending submission and review of information from Roy Wood.

Article #11 – Scenic Roads Designation

MOTION: To support the approval of Article #11 as submitted, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: H. White

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Vote: Four in favor; D. Schmida opposed.

Article #12 – Community Preservation Report

MOTION: To support Article #12, by D. Sosik.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Article #13 – Community Preservation – Property Appraisals

MOTION: To support Article #13, by D. Sosik.

2nd: A. Wilson

Vote: All in favor.

Article #14 – Community Preservation – Historic Preservation

MOTION: To support Article #14, by D. Sosik.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Article #31 – Wireless Communications Overlay District Map

C. Blanchard suggested that the Board not support it unless there is a clear reason that is consistent with the Town bylaw.

MOTION: That the Board recommend no action on Article #31, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Article #32 – Animal Leashing and Restraint

C. Blanchard did not think that the Animal Control Officer should have to police all of the open space in town. J. Malloy said that the issue is already covered under the public nuisance law.

MOTION: That the Board recommend no action on Article #32, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

Article #33 – Wireless Communications Overlay Map Addition

C. Blanchard noted that there was no notification that this change was going to be made.

MOTION: That the Board recommend no action on Article #33, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

Article #35 – Community Preservation – Acquisition of Property

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It was the consensus of the Board to hold action until the appraisal has been done and reviewed.

Special Town Meeting Warrant

Article #36 – SATA – First Night Transfer to Maple Days

H. White noted that First Night was a community based, non-commercial activity, while Maple Days is a commercial activity.

MOTION: That the Board not support Article #36, by H. White.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

Article #42 – Town Clerk Transfer of Funds

MOTION: To support Article #42, by D. Sosik.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Debt Restructuring Subcommittee

A.Wilson said that when they put the numbers together a month ago, the result was marginally something that they could recommend; now it doesn't make sense. There would be a reduced burden in the short term, but an increased burden in the long term. They will not bring it to the schools. If conditions change, they could revisit it.

8 Brookfield Road

J. Malloy informed the Board that he had met with Terri Gordon and reviewed the bills for the project. Mr. Malloy submitted the costs to the Board, based on the items that the Building Inspector and Fire Inspector had provided.

MOTION: To authorize the Town Administrator to reimburse the tenant in the amount of \$3,222.43 to enclose the staircase and to cover the cost of carpeting, by A. Wilson.

2nd: H. White

Vote: Four in favor; C. Blanchard opposed.

MOTION: To adjourn, by H. White.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

April 12, 2004

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date