

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44

Board of Selectmen

**Town of Upton**



**Massachusetts**

Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2011

*Location:* Fire & EMS Headquarters, 20 Church Street – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor training room.

*Present:* Chairman Michael E. Goodwin, Selectman Robert J. Fleming, Selectman Kenneth E. Picard, members of the Finance Committee and Town Manager Blythe C. Robinson.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Finance Committee member Jonathan Calianos gave an update on the status of the MURSD budget. He indicated that the district has lost \$1.2 million in revenue due to the elimination of federal stimulus dollars, cuts in state aid and other decreases. The School Committee will be proposing an increase in the budget that will require \$1.4 million in new dollars from Upton and a corresponding amount from Mendon. The negotiations with the Teacher’s union resulted in a 1-year contract with no COLA increase or step increases that will help mitigate the overall budget.

The Selectmen and the Finance Committee then discussed whether they were in a position to make some decisions on the budget to be proposed to Upton residents or not. The general consensus was that we need to wait a little longer to see what budget the School Committee certifies on March 21<sup>st</sup>, and to see what level of funding Mendon intends to recommend to their voters. There was general consensus that we do not want to ask Upton voters to approve an override this year and that we need to find a way to live within our resources this year. The budget as proposed by the School Committee would make that very difficult. However, if the school budget is reduced, this situation will only be improved.

A question was raised about whether or not the Selectmen intend to keep all of the capital articles that have been proposed at the dollar amounts listed. Selectmen Picard answered by reminding everyone that the Board believes it is important to fully inform all parties of what the Town’s capital needs are, and this list represents one year of those priorities. The board also noted that they are fully aware of the cost of those capital items, and will be looking at them closely when the school budget is known to determine what the Town can afford next year and what it can’t.

The Board also discussed the fact that there will be free cash remaining this year once the articles are funded at the special town meeting that require attention. The Board asked the Town Manager to add two articles to the special town meeting, the first of which will be to fund the

45 over expenditure of the snow and ice budget, and the second to put the balance of free cash  
46 remaining into the capital stabilization fund. Ms. Robinson will update the warrant to include  
47 these items.

48

49 Both boards agreed that it would be beneficial to schedule another joint meeting, and  
50 agreed to do so in two weeks on Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. The Capital Budget  
51 Committee will also be invited to this meeting.

52

53 Motion # 1 At 8:45 PM Selectman Picard motioned to adjourn the meeting. Second: Selectman  
54 Fleming, unanimous: Chairman Goodwin.

55

56 Respectfully submitted,

57

58 Blythe Robinson, Town Manager

59

60

61

62