

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF APRIL 30, 2019**

PRESENT: Mr. Marc W. Richard; Chairman, Mr. Dario F. Nardi; Vice-Chairman and Mr. John Nason, Clerk

ATTENDEES: SEE ATTACHED LIST

Chairman Richard opened the meeting at 6 PM and led with the Pledge of Allegiance at this time.

TOWN TREASURER – BAN RENEWAL

Town Treasurer, Dawn Swistak was before the Board this evening to request that they vote to approve the renewal for the Bond Anticipation Notes dated May 17, 2019. Based on the Treasurer's recommendation, the following motion was made: Motion to approve the sale of the \$115,458.29 Bond Anticipation Notes of the Town dated May 17, 2019 and payable May 15, 2020 to Hometown Bank at par with interest at the rate of 2.35 percent per annum, payable at maturity made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

DISCUSSION ON QUABOAG REGIONAL M/H SCHOOL FY 2020 BUDGET REQUEST

The Board met this evening with the Finance Committee, the West Brookfield Board of Selectmen, Dr. Kustigian and members of the School Committee to discuss the FY 2020 Quaboag School budget proposal.

Mr. Landine, started the conversation by asking Dr. Kustigian for the real numbers (above-minimum) of what they are looking for. Dr. Kustigian stated that the figures have not changed. Warren was still over one-million and West Brookfield was in excess of \$655K. Mr. Landine stated that those figures were ridiculous and neither town could afford it. Mr. Nardi stated that if approved, this would equate to an addition \$800.00 per year on the tax bills. The BOS in Warren voted to fund the school at last year's above minimum contribution and West Brookfield stated that they would follow Warren's lead with an above-minimum contribution of their \$324K. Mr. Nardi also reminded all that if their number were to be approved, then that is the starting point for next year, which would have devastating results.

School Committee member, Jason Morgan stated that they did not have a quorum the last time they met so they are planning on meeting again. Dr. Kustigian stated that if the new teacher positions were removed, then that would only reduce the budget by approximately \$170K. Mr. Richard stated that the number is misleading and does not include the benefits attached to each position. He further stated that the school needs to work within a reasonable budget, which is the same that is asked by every department. Dr. Kustigian felt that the Board should speak in truths and the school has made many cuts. He further feels that it is unfair to pit department against department and the currently voted on above minimum is not adequate. Craig Burgess who sits on the School Committee stated that they had an additional \$314K in Special Education costs. Mr. Nardi stated that the school needs to live within their means and he personally feels there is an awful lot of wasteful spending. Mr. Nason went on record to say that he felt that it turned out to be a waste of time attending meetings where there is no movement forward with anything. Mr. Burgess felt that there is no real clear vision of where the school needs to go. Mr. Morgan feels that the regional agreement should be revisited. Mr. Kirk stated that the biggest problem he sees is that there are two towns and one school that never come together.

Greg Morse, an appointed member of the School Committee provided a handout of alternative health care options. Potential savings realized through GIC could be over \$725K. Mr. Morgan stated that they looked into that already however would be willing to revisit.

In closing, Mr. Richard asked Dr. Kustigian about where at the school that the Town Meeting would be held. Dr. Kustigian stated that the School Committee has yet to discuss. Concerns from the Fire Chief regarding occupancy and fire safety is the only reason this was brought up. To make it simple, Mr. Richard stated that the meeting will be held in the gym. It's the taxpayers building. The audio will be tested this week.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Administrative Secretary

John Nason, III, Clerk