

**Westborough Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
February 23, 2016**

**6:30 p.m. – 8:07 p.m.**

Present: Chairman Barrette, Vice Chairman Drewry, Selectmen Goldblatt and Johnson

Also Present: Jim Malloy, Town Manager, Kristi Williams, Assistant Town Manager/HR Director

**Forbes Building Project Presentation / Municipal Building Committee**

Present on behalf of the Committee were John Arnold, Acting Chairman and Lt. Bob Fryer. Brian Humes, Jacunski Humes Architects and Peter Collins, Heery International, came before the Board.

Mr. Humes reviewed the Forbes Municipal Building plan for the Police Department and the issues and conditions that will be addressed with the renovation. A new roof and elevator were recently installed so they will not be included in the project. The Police Department will occupy the entire first floor; the current gymnasium, which will be converted to two floor levels adding square footage; and a portion of the second floor with stairs providing direct access between the first and second floors. The Historical Commission's office will be restored back to them. The Planning and Building Departments will remain on the second floor and Youth & Family Services will move to the third floor with the School Department. Mr. Humes reviewed the issues with the auditorium and noted that it will be renovated as a great hall. The stage will be removed and it will be used as a community meeting room with room for furniture storage. Mr. Humes noted that all departments are satisfied with the plan.

Mr. Collins spoke about the project timeline as outlined in his schedule dated February 19, 2016. The plan is to issue the contract award and notice to proceed on January 25, 2017 with a completion date of December 28, 2018. The departments would be out of the building for two years. Mr. Malloy noted that he has spoken with Carruth Capital and the Bay State Commons owner to obtain a price to lease space. The Planning and Building Departments and Youth & Family Services will be relocated to Town owned buildings. The Police and School Departments will be moved to separate rented locations and will approximately 14,000 square feet. The best price for a lease is \$18.75 per square foot. Mr. Malloy explained that prisoners would be booked at the Town's station but will be held in a neighboring town. Dispatchers will be housed at the Fire Station. Selectman Drewry asked about the loss of the gymnasium space and Mr. Malloy explained that the Recreation Director is working with the Superintendent and their needs will be met by the School Department. The Article will be asking for \$15 million.

**FY 2017 School Budget / School Committee, Superintendent**

Ms. Bock came before the Board and reviewed her power point presentation on the FY 2017 budget. The change over FY 2016 is a 2.71% increase and is being driven by enrollment, ELL growth, technology initiatives and curriculum initiatives to serve all students. Ms. Bock reviewed the offsets and adjustments to the budget. Due to the enrollment increase teachers were added to Gibbons and the elementary schools and salaries are being offset by a more sophisticated use alternative revenue sources, i.e. grants and the General Fund.

Selectman Johnson expressed concern regarding the use of grants for positions and what will happen if the grant goes away. Ms. Oliver noted that they are confident that the funding will follow as it has been granted to the district every year. If there is a decrease it would only be minimal and they would be able to maintain it by cutting the operating budget. The grants do include the health insurance costs.

Selectman Goldblatt asked how many years they have received the grants and Ms. Oliver noted that they have received it for many, many years and it is a standing entitlement grant issued by the Federal government. Selectman Drewry asked if the health insurance costs are included in their increase and Mr. Malloy noted that all health insurance costs are paid out of the Town's side and Selectman Drewry asked Mr. Malloy if he could calculate what the School's portion would be. He also questioned the increase in student population and if it is a result of the new developments and Ms. Bock noted that their projected numbers shown tonight do include new development.

### **Pre-K – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade School Building Committee Presentation**

Ms. Bock reviewed the history and process of the School Enrollment Committee which was formed as a result of the difference in the school population number coming from the community. An RFQ is being developed which is represented by Article 24 seeking funds to develop an accurate cost analysis of the options that were discussed by the Building Committee and the HMFH report. Selectman Barrette offered to continue to serve on the committee as the Selectmen's representative.

Mr. Doret noted that the Article should be a request to "borrow" not "raise and appropriate" so as to not put the burden on the taxpayers now. Also if it should go forward as "raise and appropriate" it would delay the process until July 1. He also explained the process and what would be needed to address the issues near term for Hastings, Armstrong and Fales. Mr. Doret added that because of what may need to be done to Fales they are creating a Statement of Interest to submit to the MSBA by April 8, 2016; if that date is missed it would be another whole year to get in the queue for MSBA funding. He noted that certified votes will be needed by the School Committee and Selectmen to submit the Statement of Interest. Mr. Malloy noted that the Article has been rewritten by bond counsel as a "borrow and appropriate".

### **Request to Appoint Election Officer / Town Clerk**

Selectman Goldblatt's motion to appoint Joan Truesdell, Robert Barrett, and Nancy Harris as Election Officers for a term to expire on July 31, 2016 was seconded by Selectman Johnson. Vote: 4-0

### **FY 2017 Budget Discussion/Votes**

Mr. Malloy noted that the only vote remaining is the School budget and the amount is \$46,330,691.

Selectman Johnson's motion to support the School Department's budget of \$46,330,691 was seconded by Selectman Goldblatt. Vote: 4-0

### **Annual Town Meeting Warrant/Votes / Town Manager**

The Articles that need to be addressed tonight are #5, #9, #20, #24, #32, and #41. Mr. Malloy noted that the Board did vote on Articles 20 and 32 at the last meeting and those were sent to the Finance Committee.

Article 5: Mr. Malloy noted that the question was whether the Town Moderator would rule that eliminating the Fire Fighter position in the Classification Plan “Number of Personnel Changes” on Town Meeting floor is in the scope of the Article. He has not heard back yet from Mr. Arnold. The Board did vote to support the Article as it was.

Article 9: Forbes Municipal Building Renovations.

Selectman Drewry motion to Support Article 9 was seconded by Selectman Goldblatt. Vote: 4-0

Article 24: Pre-K to 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Building Committee Architectural Funding.

Selectman Johnson’s motion to support Article 24 was seconded by Selectman Goldblatt.

Vote: 4-0

Article 41: Relocate the Vietnam Memorial.

Selectman Drewry explained that the intent is to move the Vietnam Memorial to the front of the Forbes Municipal Building where the other memorials are located. The cost is \$8,000 which includes insurance.

Selectman Johnson’s motion to support Article 41 was seconded by Selectman Goldblatt.

Vote: 4-0

Mr. Malloy informed the Board that the Town Clerk has asked to remove Article 28 due to the rapid changes with the voting process to make it more electronic. She will rent the dividers for the polls instead of purchasing them.

### **Motion to Close Annual Town Meeting Warrant**

Selectman Goldblatt’s motion to close the March 12, 2016 Town Meeting Warrant was seconded by Selectman Johnson. Vote: 4-0

### **Issues and Correspondence of the Selectmen**

Selectmen Drewry, Johnson and Barrette commended Selectman Goldblatt for her years of service to the Town and wished her luck with future endeavors.

Selectman Goldblatt spoke of her 25 years of service to the Town and thanked Mary Callahan for urging her to run for School Committee and the people of Westborough for all their support.

Selectman Barrette attended the Candidates’ Forum and thanked everyone that is running and wished them luck. He noted that there was a question as to why the Selectmen appoint the members to the Council on Aging without notifying the Council first and Selectman Barrette explained that the Board is the appointing authoring for the Council and makes the decision on who to appoint.

### **Executive Session**

Selectman Drewry moved to enter into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining with the IBPO Local 439. Chairman Barrette declared that an Open Session will be detrimental to the Town’s bargaining position. Selectman Johnson seconded the motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken: Selectman Goldblatt – yes; Selectman Barrette – yes; Selectman Drewry – yes; Selectman Johnson – yes.

**Motion to Approve Contract between the Town of Westborough and IBPO Local 439**

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 8:05 p.m.

Selectman Johnson's motion to approve the contract for the IBPO Local 439 was seconded by Selectman Drewry. Vote: 4-0

Mr. Malloy noted that the Superior Officers Union is not contesting the formation of a new unit and neither is the IBPO. The Superior Officers contract will be ready by Fall Town Meeting.

**Adjournment**

Selectman Johnson's motion to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. was seconded by Selectman Drewry. Vote: 4-0

*Submitted by Paula M. Covino*

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Chairman Barrette

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Vice Chairman Drewry

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Selectman Goldblatt

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Selectman Johnson

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Selectman Dodd