

Members present: Kevin M. McCormick Christopher A. Rucho
Steven J. Quist John J. O'Brien
Members absent: Allen R. Phillips

Mr. McCormick convened the special meeting of the Board at 6:16 p.m. The meeting is being held in the cafeteria of the Middle/High School prior to town meeting.

Richard Pauley, Fire Chief – Article 25

Chief Pauley joined the Board to discuss his request under Article 25. For the past four months his department has experienced four failures with their radio system. The low-band equipment has failed and the bulk of the pagers are still on low band and need to get off the out-dated system. The Chief's goal is to migrate off the system over a period of time. Due to the fact that his department has run short staffed this year, he has money available in his salary line item. He also intends to use some of the funds for hose replacement, a grant match in the amount of \$7,500 for a \$136,000 grant, and changing some of the equipment on Engine 1. The request is to move \$46,880 from salaries and wages into other line items in the Fire Department Budget. Chief Pauley noted that the radio system has been an issue for a number of years. As a result, they are unable to tone the department and no one will respond when the tones go out. If the Selectmen concur with the request, the Chief will meet with the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee has expressed a desire to use the \$25,000 towards the School Budget and deal with the radio issue at the October town meeting.

Motion Mr. Quist to accept the proposal as written, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, all in favor.

Change in Revolving Funds Vocational Education

Mr. Gaumond informed the Board that the School Department no longer has a need for their Vocational Education Revolving Fund and the motion on that article will be to pass over. Mr. Rucho arrived at 6:25 p.m.

Articles 21 & 22 Passover

The Board of Health has asked to pass over Articles 21 and 22. They will be done as one article at the October town meeting.

School Funding

Mr. Gaumond noted that last week when the Board met with the Finance Committee and School Committee there were no decisions made by the Selectmen. All the Board agreed to do was to have Mr. Gaumond work with the school to craft the proper motions to get them where they wanted to be. The Board needs to decide whether they will support the schools use of other available funds.

Initially the school was looking for \$300,000, and that number has been reduced to \$215,000 without them doing anything. The school will use \$31,000 from School Choice Funds. Under Article 25, they will make a motion to move \$25,000 from the Health Insurance line item. They also plan to move \$20,000 from the Trash Budget. The trash funds are our savings from pay-as-you-throw and our Proposition 2-1/2 Funds. Should that approach not work, under Article 35 they will take a combination of Free Cash and Stabilization. Transfers from Stabilization will require a 2/3rds vote.

The budget has been revised to reflect a lower number on the education side than originally proposed. The change may lower the budget, but does not change how much money the school will get. When the House developed its budget they promised that no community would be lowered in their education funding. They plan on using grants to bring everyone up to level funding. Mr. Gaumond spoke with both Senator Chandler and Rep. O'Day today and he is confident that the way we have

prepared the budget will give us the results we need. The federal funds will go to the schools directly. He asked the Board how they would like to approach the extra funds the school is looking for.

Mr. McCormick expressed his concern that we have a policy on the use of Free Cash, which calls for a percentage of the funds going towards the budget with the remainder going into Stabilization and Capital. In the past we have expended \$700,000 of Free Cash and next year we only have \$25,000. Mr. Gaumond noted that at the joint meeting Mr. Phillips informed the School and Finance Committee that should the Board vote to give the school all the Free Cash, that the School Department would have to come to the table and tell us how we will resolve the budget gap next year. Mr. Rucho pointed out the fact that this is also in violation of the 67%/33% split we have followed. Mr. McCormick noted that the school caused their budget gap, and Mr. Kane provided a number and now the Selectmen need to fill in the gap.

Mr. O'Brien questioned the \$25,000, which the school would like to take from the health insurance line item. Mr. Gaumond explained that at the beginning of the fiscal year the Insurance Advisory Committee recommended higher co-pays and emergency room visits, which were negotiated by the unions. Mr. Rucho feels it is fair for the school to get a piece of that savings. Mr. McCormick recommends the Board schedule a retreat following town meeting to prepare its position in dealing with future school budget deficits and then meet with the School Committee to let them know if they need additional funds then they need to ask for an override. Mr. Gaumond stated that should the transfers within the omnibus budget article not be approved, then they will be taking the funds under their article from the Stabilization Fund.

Motion Mr. Rucho to support the request of the School Committee to take \$25,000 from the Health Insurance line item, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

Motion Mr. O'Brien not to support the use of \$20,000 from the Trash line item as the Board made a pledge to honor the intent of the trash collection override, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor. The Board agreed to make an argument on town meeting floor that this was a promise they made to the townspeople.

Motion Mr. Rucho on the request to use Free Cash that the Board state it is a violation of our Free Cash Policy and we intend to follow the policy in place, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

Motion Mr. O'Brien not to support a request to transfer funds from the Stabilization Fund and stress that the School Department is already getting over 2/3rds of the budget and the stand is not that the Selectmen are against the schools, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Lenkarski Issue

Town Counsel has advised that Article 42 can be accomplished by vote of the Board of Selectmen rather than Town Meeting. It will be included on the June 2 agenda.

Citizen Soldier Legislation

The Board of Assessors would like to pass over this until October as they are concerned that the language does not define 'reservist' and they also need a dollar limit. They also indicated that they are not against the article although the Veterans' Agent is against the article. Mr. McCormick reported that he spoke with Mindy Esteves, the advocate of the article, and she is fine with it being deferred to the October town meeting.

Texting Bylaw

Mr. Rucho noted that we just received information from Brookline relative to this bylaw and he is also concerned that the Board never spoke with the Police Chief as to how he can enforce it. He also advised that the state may pass something and he does not want to spend any more money on it

Motion Mr. Rucho to pass over the Texting Bylaw, talk with the Police Chief prior the October meeting, and if the state does not do anything we can bring it forward in October, seconded by Mr. Quist. Mr. O'Brien stated that he spoke with Mr. Phillips and promised to bring it forward. Vote on the motion- Mr. Rucho yes; Messrs. McCormick, Quist and O'Brien no.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion Mr. Rucho at 6:55 p.m. to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: June 2, 2010

Nancy E. Lucier

Kevin M. McCormick, Chairman

Steven J. Quist, Clerk

Christopher A. Rucho, Selectman

John J. O'Brien, Selectman