

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – APRIL 22, 2010

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chairman Alex Vispoli reconvened the meeting from the Tri-Board Meeting to a Board of Selectmen's meeting at 7:35 P.M. in the School Committee Meeting Room at the School Administration Building. Present were: Selectman Lyman, Selectman Major, Selectman Stabile and Chairman Vispoli. Also present: Town Manager Reginald Stapczynski. The meeting was duly posted and cable-cast live.

II. Town Yard

The Board had an in-depth discussion on how to proceed with the warrant article for the Town Yard Project and strategies to consider. They are uncertain if the Finance Committee will support the \$21.9M for the purchase of 146 Dascomb Road and the re-fitting of the building to accommodate the needs of the Town Yard and if they would get a 2/3 vote at Town Meeting without the support of the Finance Committee. They also discussed the options of requesting \$15M instead for the purchase of the building alone or requesting design funding only.

Chairman Vispoli is concerned about getting a 2/3 vote for the \$21.9M and would like to submit the best possible solution to have the warrant article approved. He is unsure whether there is enough time to fully communicate the information to the public.

Selectman Stabile stated that communication of either \$15M or \$21.9M will take the same amount of time. His concern is that by prolonging the vote, the building may not be available in 3-6 months time. If the Finance Committee approves the purchase of the site it would be a huge plus for the Town.

Selectman Major said the Finance Committee supported the Town Yard concept and the land parcel at a prior meeting and was most supportive of the land acquisition. The Board has to agree to go forward with the \$21.9 warrant article without the support of the Finance Committee or the \$15.8 for the land acquisition – either way it is important to have a plan in place and make sure the information gets out to the community.

The Board discussed the alternative of having a Special Town Meeting in the Fall that would focus solely on the Town Yard with leases in hand and provide more time to coordinate a thoughtful, well-planned strategy to communicate at Town Meeting.

Selectman Stabile said the Task Force is committed to the project and ready to present their request to the Town at the April Town Meeting. They feel that securing the property is a priority. Selectman Major suggested the possibility of reducing the warrant article for approval of the design money only which, **although we won't own the property**, we can move forward from that point.

Town Moderator Sheila Doherty feels there are many issues to work out before they can clearly communicate a plan to the community.

The Town Yard Task Force is meeting on Friday and Selectman Stabile will discuss the alternatives with them and report back to the Board and Finance Committee on Monday.

If the request is for the design money alone, they will need a contingency with a Letter of Intent for an agreement with Brockway Smith to bring a warrant article to Town Meeting. The Town Manager said they need an agreement by the end of June to

continue the process.

Recap of the discussion and next steps to take into account include: Moving forward with either the request for \$21.9M or \$15M, withdrawing the article with the intention of going to a Special Town Meeting, contacting Brockway Smith to see what they are willing to do, concern with losing the opportunity to purchase the property and keeping the tenant, updating the Task Force and getting their input, recommendation and support of the Finance Committee and strategy and a communication plan.

The Board will invite the members of the Town Yard Task Force to attend the **Selectmen's** meeting on Monday, April 26th.

III. Adjournment

On a motion by Selectman Major with a second by Selectman Stabile, it was voted 3-0 to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Lyman left before the adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recorder