
Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting/Work Session
Minutes of Monday, May 2, 2016

I. Call to Order

Chair Mary O'Donoghue called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:10 P.M. in the J. Everett Collins Center Auditorium, Band Room at AHS: Present from the Board of Selectmen: Paul Salafia-Y, Alex Vispoli-Y, Dan Kowalski-Y, Robert Landry-Y, and Mary O'Donoghue-Y.

Also present: Town Manager Andrew Flanagan, Town Counsel Tom Urbelis, and Deputy Town Manager, John Mangiaratti.

II. Annual Town Meeting Preparation

1. Article 40 - In Town Independent Overlay District has been withdrawn at the request of the Council on Aging.

Selectman Vispoli motioned to support the withdrawal of Article 40. The motion was seconded by Paul Salafia and voted 5-0 to withdraw.

2. Article 54 Contract Scoring - Bill Ham distributed a substitute amendment to the Private Warrant Article, Contract Scoring, submitted by Bob Pokkress.

Mr. Ham said the idea behind the article is to promote transparency in the budget that specifically addresses multi-year contracts. The amendment is different; all the congressional budget office items were removed. Alex Vispoli read the amendment aloud, which is basically a reduction of the original warrant article.

The Town Manger and Board discussed the impact of the amendment on the daily business of the Town. The Board has concerns with unintended consequences, as the Board has not had sufficient time to digest the new amendment.

Dan Kowalski said it is not the role of the Board of Selectmen to modify a private warrant article, we have to access the impact of private articles. He recommends that any update should be presented to the Moderator, and given to the Board beforehand so they can take a position if the opportunity is available.

The Board of Selectmen will continue the discussion on Tuesday, May 3rd prior to the beginning of Town Meeting.

Article 59 - Senior Tax Relief Mr. Roli said the original article has changed dramatically. Essentially, the State Legislature wants us to follow the basic Sudbury Town Senior Tax Relief Program. To qualify, you have to be over 70 years of age, own your own home, have paid taxes for 20 years, and a salary that falls within the guidelines of the Article. The house cannot be valued more than \$600,000 and the exemption would reduce it by \$75,000. He determined about 436 homeowners in Andover with about 20% who won't qualify reducing the cost to the Town. After two years if the Town finds it is too difficult to administer, the Town can suspend it.

Andrew Flanagan talked about the mechanics of how this would work and be implemented. There would be a process for the verification of income, and the Town would maintain a copy of the documents. The name of applicants would be public.

Because it is now a Town Article, not a private Warrant Article, Larry Murphy will read the Article at Town Meeting and a Selectmen will motion to move it forward. Mary O'Donoghue wants to hear what the recommendation of the Finance Committee is.

III. Adjournment

At 6:49 P.M. on a motion by Alex Vispoli and seconded by Bob Landry, the Board of Selectmen voted to adjourn. Roll call: Paul Salafia-Y, Alex Vispoli-Y, Dan Kowalski-Y, Robert Landry-Y, and Mary O'Donoghue-Y.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary