
**Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting/Work Session
Minutes of Tuesday, May 3, 2016**

I. **Call to Order**

Chair Mary O'Donoghue called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:15 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, 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. **Warrant Article 54** - After discussions with the Town officials, Bill Ham said it has been decided that the culture today calls for this article to be withdrawn without prejudice.

Alex Vispoli moved that the Board of Selectmen support removal of this article. Paul Salafia seconded the motion and the Board voted 4-0 to approve.

2. **Warrant Article 59 - Senior Tax Relief**

The Board of Selectmen discussed the feasibility of the article, exemptions and costs, and tax relief for those that need it. The article is not as defined as it should be and difficult to quantify what the amount would be. A broader conversation on the article is needed to determine what the levers are, the process and outcomes, including the mechanics of implementing it. It was agreed to put the item on future agendas for further discussion.

Mr. Roli explained that the article does not affect this year's budget, as seniors can't sign up until Jan-Feb of 2107, the abatement would occur on the Feb-May billing of 2018; the Town would know a year in advance what the cost would be. Seniors would have to apply every year. He believes it is a worthy article and they have responded to the requirements by the State. If it passes at Town Meeting, it has to go back to the House, the Senate, and then be signed by the Governor. There is no sunset clause in the article, which makes him believe there will be more changes made at the State level.

Tom Urbelis explained what the procedures are and what could happen at the State level with special legislation. This is not usually the way a Special Act is passed and requested. Senator L'Italien's attorney has approved the legislation and Rep Lyons is fully behind it.

The Board discussed conducting a financial analysis to determine what the cost would be and how it could be budgeted. The article can be suspended anytime for a period of 2 years and can be rescinded by a ballot vote.

The Board took no position. Mary O'Donoghue suggested it be brought to the floor for discussion and a vote at Town Meeting tonight.

III. Adjournment

At 6:50P.M. on a motion by Paul Salafia and seconded by Alex Vispoli, the Board of Selectmen voted to adjourn. Roll call: P. Salafia-Y, A. Vispoli-Y, D. Kowalski-Y, R. Landry-Y, and M. O'Donoghue-Y.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary