

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA  
MINUTES MAY 23, 2016  
APPROVED**

**BOS Members Present:** John G. Petropoulos, Chair; Anna Eliot, Vice Chair; Joshua A. Degen, Member; Peter S. Cunningham, Member; Barry Pease, Member

**FC Members Present:** Gary Green, Art Prest, Bud Robertson, Bob Hargraves

**Also Present:** Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant; Jeff Kubick, School Committee Chairman

Mr. Petropoulos called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Finance Committee was called to order at 6:00pm.

Mr. Haddad said that because the Finance Committee and School Committee were not ready to discuss the budget, the Moderator was going to announce at the beginning of the meeting that they would not be reconsidering the budget that night. He said that the Moderator was going to accept a motion to continue Town Meeting to Monday, June 13th at 7pm. He said that the Finance Committee had met the day before and was recommending that they move forward with the capital budget items as it was not tied to the budget. Mr. Degen said that he was fully prepared to discuss the capital budget that night. Mr. Degen said that he was in favor of this but thought there might be a lot of questions. Mr. Cunningham supported moving forward with this. Mr. Green said that the consensus of the Finance Committee was to move forward with it also.

Mr. Degen asked about building security and whether it could be funded by something else. Mr. Green suggested cap stab. Mr. Haddad said that he preferred to not go lower than \$100K and suggested they leave it how it is. Mr. Cunningham said it was a capital project.

Mr. Haddad said they could withdraw article 23 as Tennessee Gas officially withdrew their FERC application that day.

Mr. Haddad said that the Finance Committee had met the day before and took a vote to limit the municipal budget reduction to \$138,696 and make that amount contingent on the override. He said that the School in levy amount would be \$1.3M with anything over that contingent on an override. He said that he took the liberty of drafting some motions. He said that the second motion would be made where there were contingent budgets. Mr. Haddad said that the School Committee was meeting the next day and thought the board was better served to attend that meeting instead of meeting as a group. Mr. Green asked where Dunstable was in this process. Mr. Haddad said that Dunstable was not moving forward with any contingencies as far as he knew. He said that they were going to strip their budget to fund the school request and come back after to replenish their budget. Mr. Degen said that they wanted the override budget to be as low as possible so it didn't hurt them. Mr. Haddad said that the Town of Groton was putting up \$1.3M to fund the schools within the levy which would keep them more than whole. He pointed out that they were not cutting anything that they had currently. Mr. Degen agreed adding that they were not adding what they wanted. Mr. Degen said that they had made cuts on the municipal side to fund the schools already. Mr. Degen said that to Mr. Haddad's point, they were funding not only the School's rollover costs but any new hires that occurred in FY16. Mr. Haddad said that he was okay with \$138K on the municipal side being contingent on override. Mr. Degen said that they didn't need to make any decisions about the override that night.

Mr. Kubick said that the School Committee was hoping to provide some guidance to the Board and Finance Committee the following night. Mr. Petropoulos said that the Board could decide if they wanted to put two

questions out there one for the school override and one for the municipal override adding they just need the assessment.

Mr. Haddad asked Mr. Doneski if they needed to produce another yes/no ballot information packet. Mr. Doneski said they did. Mr. Degen asked if the numbers would be out before the June 13th Town Meeting. Mr. Kubick said that the plan is to get them out this month.

Mr. Petropoulos said that he had been looking at a number of comparable towns from the benchmark study they did. He said that their municipal spend was second lowest to Hamilton. He said that their school spending was mid-range. He said that he expected to find more fat on the municipal side than he found here and thought this might be something they wanted to discuss on Wednesday. Mr. Petropoulos ended by saying that the per capita basis and spend vs education spending showed that they were pretty lean on the municipal side.

Mr. Haddad said that they needed to rollover their bond for capital projects last year and received .80% interest. He said that this bond was paying down a portion of lost lake sewer engineering the radio project and Lost Lake fire protection project. Mr. Degen asked if this was a ban. Mr. Haddad said that it was and no motion was necessary.

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to adjourn to the first adjourned session to the 2016 Spring Town Meeting. Mr. Petropoulos adjourned the meeting at 6:45pm.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Board of Selectmen

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respectfully *submitted*,  
Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Date Approved: 6/28/16