

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

* MINUTES *

November 5, 2007

4:00 p.m. A special meeting of the Board of Selectmen was convened by Chairman Jerry Wasserman at the Town Hall. Present were Mr. Wasserman, Mr. Jim Healy, Mr. Dan Matthews, Mr. John Bulian, Mr. Jack Cogswell, Assistant Town Manager Chris Coleman and Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick. Also present were Richard Creem, Chairman of the Finance Committee, and several members of the Council on Aging.

4:00 p.m. *Senior Center* - Mr. Wasserman discussed a meeting with the Council on Aging and the Town Manager relative to Warrant Article 11. He and Ms. Fitzpatrick asked the COA if they preferred to move forward at the Special Town Meeting given the fact that the home rule petition authorizing the transfer of the property had not yet occurred. After a long discussion, the COA voted 4 -4 with 1 abstention on a motion to move forward.

Mr. Matthews said that he supports a motion to refer. He proposed that the presentation include the procedural issues with the home rule petition, the fact that a number of issues and questions have been raised about the level of community support of the Ridge Hill Site, and a proposal for further review and consideration of alternatives. He suggested that the proponents make brief presentation in support of Ridge Hill. Mr. Healy proposed taking a step back and using this opportunity for a second look at the projects, recognizing that the current Senior Center is unacceptable. He suggested that the presentation focus on why we need a Senior Center, why Stephen Palmer is deficient, activities taken to date, a description of the current proposal, and the concept of further review. Mr. Cogswell stated that a positive presentation on Ridge Hill should be included, as many people haven't been exposed to the benefits of the location. Mr. Bulian agreed that further review is warranted. Mr. Wasserman reiterated his commitment to the project, but noted that a review of community sentiment is in order. He said that while there is no question that the Town needs a new Senior Center, this may not be the project that the Town wants. Mr. Healy said that he is concerned that if the Board does not withdraw the article it could be the subject of an affirmative vote. Mr. Matthews said that he was not troubled by the risk and continued to propose referral. Mr. Matthews moved that the Board of Selectmen offer a motion to refer the subject matter of Article 11 to report back to the next Annual Town Meeting or sooner. Mr. Cogswell seconded the motion. The motion carried 4 - 1 with Mr. Healy voting no. Mr. Matthews further moved that the Board not offer the motion to amend Article 11 from \$500,000 to \$260,000 as previously approved by the Board, and to let the Finance Committee know. The motion was

seconded by Mr. Bulian. Mr. Wasserman stated that he and Mr. Healy had represented to the Finance Committee that the Board would support the amendment. Mr. Wasserman asked Mr. Creem for his opinion. Mr. Creem noted that the amendment should be put forth on the theory that he cannot assume the motion to refer will pass. The Finance Committee cannot recommend adoption of the article at \$500,000. Mr. Matthews withdrew his motion on the motion to amend. The Board agreed to meet with the Council on Aging after Town Meeting to discuss next steps.

4:50 p.m. *NIPEA/DPW Agreement - Mr. Matthews moved that the Board approve the collective bargaining agreement between the Town and the NIPEA/DPW employees. Mr. Bulian seconded the motion. Unanimous: 5-0.*

4:55 p.m. *Warrant Articles*

Article 2 – Fund Collective Bargaining Agreement Mr. Cogswell moved that the Board recommend adoption of Article 2. Mr. Bulian seconded the motion. Unanimous: 5-0.

Articles 3, 4, 5 & 6– Operating & Enterprise Fund Budgets Mr. Cogswell moved that the Board recommend adoption of Articles 3, 4, 5 & 6 as amended. Mr. Bulian seconded the motion. Unanimous: 5-0.

Article 10 – Matching Grant for Tennis Courts Mr. Cogswell moved that the Board withdraw Article 10. Mr. Bulian seconded the motion. Unanimous: 5-0.

5:00 p.m. *Mr. Matthews made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Mr. Healy. Unanimous: 5-0.*