

A special meeting of the Town Council held on Thursday June 23, 2005 for the Town at the Town Hall was called to order at 7:31 PM. Council President Richard presiding.

After pledging allegiance to the flag of our country, Town Clerk Long called the roll.

Councilman Marcello - present

Councilman Salisbury - present

Councilman Farrar-present

Councilman Marchant - present

Councilman Winfield - present

Council Vice-President Budway - present

Council President Richard – present

Council President Richard wanted to introduce two guests in the audience from the Gentian Garden Club: Carolyn Sieczkiewicz, President, and Barbara Colvin, member. Council President Richard congratulated both women on the 70th anniversary of the Club. He explained that this club has been a great asset to this Town, and they continually beautify the Town. Some of their projects include making holiday decoration for the doors of Town Hall and other Town buildings, beautifying the Scituate and Hope gazebos and libraries throughout the year.

At this time Council President Richard presented Mrs. Sieczkiewicz with the certificate of appreciation from the Council and the entire Town for their hard work and dedication to beautifying Scituate.

Council President Richard asked Representative Carol Mumford to speak on the state budget and how it will affect the Town of Scituate.

Carol Mumford explained that she introduced legislation in the House to allow Scituate to exceed the State mandated 5.5% tax increase cap. She said that it passed the House but it didn't fair as well in the Senate. She said that she had good news for the Town of Scituate; she said that with the proposed State budget, the Town will recognize a saving of at least \$300,000 and that is the amount that the Town needed to stay at the 5.5% increase.

Representative Mumford stated that a lot of other Towns were waiting to see what happened with the Scituate bill before they introduced legislation to exceed the 5.5% cap. Representative Mumford said that most of the savings will be realized with the pension reform legislation totaling around \$200,000 and the other \$100,000 will come from the excise tax and increase in general revenue. She said that it could even be more than \$300,000. The true savings is with the pension reform. Representative Mumford wanted to thank the Scituate Town Council for taking the stand and trying to increase the tax rate above the 5.5% cap. She said that a lot of communities were looking at Scituate to see what would happen. She said that if a well runs Town like Scituate needed pension relief then a lot of other communities would need it too.

Councilman Marcello asked Representative Mumford how many other communities introduced legislation to exceed the cap?

Representative Mumford said she wasn't sure and that he would know better.

Councilman Salisbury asked Representative Mumford if there was an increase in school aid?

Representative Mumford said no increase over what the Governor originally recommended.

Councilman Marcello asked with the new tax rate how much will the Providence Water Supply Board be paying?

Town Treasurer Przybyla said he didn't know.

Town Council President Richard said this will allow the Town to keep the spending level the same as was approved at the Financial Town Meeting, but only have to raise taxes by 5.5%. He said if the Town had to they could delay some of the construction projects until a later time.

Motion made by Councilman Salisbury, seconded by Councilman Farrar and voted on by consent agreement to send out the tax bills with a 5.5% tax increase and to keep the spending level approved at the 2005 Financial Town Meeting.

Councilman Marcello asked Town Treasurer if we have been holding our bills for the past month? Town Treasurer Przybyla said that we have held them for the last week but not a month. He also said that the tax bills are at the printer and will be mailed out shortly.

During Council remarks Council Vice-President Budway informed the Council that the Middle School Exploration Committee has been split into two subcommittees, with one looking at a smaller Middle School Complex for grades 6-8 instead of 5-8 and the other looking into building on to the existing Middle/High school Complex. He asked Town Clerk Long to put it on the July agenda so he can update the Council. He also mentioned that the Growth Management Committee and the Finance Committee had a joint meeting. They discussed several options, like limiting construction permits and a new zoning proposal from DEM. He asked to have this put on the July Town Council agenda.

Councilman Winfield wanted to thank Carol Mumford for all of her hard work at the State House.

Council President Richard wanted to thank Paul Lescault and members of the School Committee for attending this evening meeting.

Motion made by Council Vice-President Budway, seconded by Councilman Farrar and voted by consent agreement to adjourn to close session at 7:50 PM.

Reconvened to open session at 9:03 PM.

Motion made by Councilman Marcello, seconded by Councilman Salisbury and voted by consent agreement to adjourn at 9:04 PM and to keep the minutes of the meetings previously closed to the public; closed pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-4 and 42-46-5 and allow the Town Clerk 14 days to prepare the minutes of the meeting.

Attest:

Margaret M. Long, Town Clerk