

A special meeting of the Town Council held on Friday, June 6, 2008 for the Town at Town Council Chambers and was called to order at 2:34 PM. Council President Budway presiding.

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

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| Councilman Collins-present | Councilman Salisbury - absent |
| Councilwoman Knowlton-absent | Councilman D'Agostino - present |
| Councilman Winfield - present | Council Vice-President Farrar - present |
| Council President Budway – present | |

Council President Budway informed the audience reason for the meeting is to approve a resolution providing for the construction of renovations and modifications to the Scituate Middle/High School Complex and authorizing financing of, including the issue of not more than 4 million dollars in bonds.

He explained that audience participation is first on the agenda.

Barbara Venerbeck, Rockland Road, said that this idea has been turned down twice by the voters, what is so special about this new proposal that will make it pass.

Council President Budway said that in this current proposal they are working within the confines of the existing building. He said that there will be no additions; it is just intended to do the bare minimum so that the school will meet the standards for accreditation. He said that these repairs absolutely have to be done, and we are forced into this band aid approach.

Council President Buday said that today's meeting is just to get the resolution and enabling legislation into motion, not to discuss the specifics of the project, because we don't have them yet.

Tim McCormick, Trimtown Road, said that he understands if the Council doesn't have any specifics yet, but was wondering if this proposal will have to get Department of Education approval.

Town Solicitor D'Agostino said that he doesn't feel that new approval will be needed because this proposal is within the scope of the old proposal.

Council Vice-President Farrar said that it is very important the the heating and ventilation systems are upgraded.

Tim McCormick said that the Town will have to do a lot of education to get this bond issue passed. He said that as a member of the Space Needs Committee, he has asked for one and ½ years to have a meeting to review the enrollment projections, but the Committee still has not

met. He said that it is very important for that Committee to stay current with the enrollment figures.

Councilman D'Agostino said that he is going to reluctantly support this project. He said that the priority is to keep the accreditation of the Middle/High School.

Barbara Vennerbeck, Rockland Road, said that if this project is going to pass it will have to be a publicized better. She said that an afternoon meeting is fine for the elderly, but a working person cannot make a meeting scheduled for 2:30 in the afternoon.

Town Solicitor D'Agostino said that this meeting is just to approve the resolution for the borrowing of the funds so that it can be submitted to the General Assembly for approval. He said that the legislation has to be submitted in a timely fashion so that the bill can be introduced before the end of the session, which is in about 1 month. He also asked the Council what method of voting do they want for this bond, Special Financial Town Meeting, all day referendum or at the General Election? He said that he would suggest a Special Financial Town Meeting. He said that the method does not have to be incorporated unto the legislation but he feels it should be to make it is specific as possible.

Councilman Winfield asked if the final plan will come back to the Council prior to the vote.

Council President Budway said that he feels that a Special Financial Town Meeting is the best solution. That it will give us more flexibility. He said that we vote on a much larger amount of money at the regular Financial Town Meeting.

Barbara Vennerbeck, Rockland Road, said that she feels more people will vote if it is an all day referendum.

Council President Budway said that if it doesn't pass, we might have time to put it on the General Election ballot.

Tim McCormick said that he feels that all scenarios should put into the enabling legislation.

Town Solicitor D'Agostino said that he feels that it is risky to do it that way.

Councilman D'Agostino said that he feels that the Council should follow the Solicitor's advice.

Councilman Winfield stated that he would prefer it to be on the ballot at the November General Election. He said that he feels that the bond issue has a better chance of passing with a larger voter turnout. He said that a small turn out could cause the bond issue to fail.

Suzanne Soprano, Seven Mile Road, Hope, asked if there will be a possibility of mail in ballots for a Special Financial Town Meeting, because if not, the shut ins and college students will not be able to vote.

Barbara Vennerbeck said that this proposal has been voted down twice, and she feels that the Council is trying to rush it.

Council Vice-President Farrar said that the Council wants the bond issue to pass because this is the last year of the reimbursement from the State. The State will pay for 33% of the project. He said another reason for the rush is that the school could lose their accreditation. He said that he would rather have all of the options in the enabling legislation, so we would have all of the bases covered.

Tim McCormick, Trimtown Road, suggested that in educating the public, the Town Council should assure that the senior freeze is not going to be in jeopardy.

Rocco Pototo, 809 Plainfield Pike, asked why this meeting is being held in the afternoon when most working people can't attend. He also asked how much will the renovations cost and our they asking for too much money.

Kirk Rerick, Main Street, Hope, said that this meeting is not accessible for most residents. He said that he had to leave work early to attend the meeting.

Council President Budway said that this resolution allowing for the bond issue is just one small step in the entire scheme of getting the renovations done.

Council Vice-President Farrar said that he is in favor of a Special Financial Town meeting, because we can get it done faster and less expensive than an all day referendum.

Councilman Winfield said that he is favor of the plan, but would like to see it voted on in November at the General Election. He feels that this is the time that it would have the best chance of winning.

Kirk Rerik said that he feels that it should be on the ballot in November.

Suzanne Soprano said that she agrees with Councilman Winfield and that with a Special Financial Meeting, they would be excluding a lot of people.

Rocco Pototo asked why this accreditation is so important.

Tim McCormick said that if a school does not have its accreditation, then it will be very hard for the graduates to get into college.

Motion made by Councilman D'Agostino, seconded by Councilman Collins to approve the resolution providing for the construction of renovations and modifications to the Scituate Middle/High School Complex and the authorizing financing thereof, including the issue of not more than a 4 million dollar bond to be voted upon at a Special Financial Town Meeting.

Councilman Winfield-nay

Councilman D'Agostino-aye

Council Vice-President Farrar-aye

Councilman Collins-aye

Council President Budway-aye

Motion passes with four affirmative votes and 1 negative vote.

Motion made by Councilman Collins, seconded by Councilman Winfield, and voted by consent agreement to adjourn at 3:50 PM and to keep the minutes of the meetings previously closed to the public; closed pursuant to RIGL 42-46-4 and 42-46-5 and to allow the Town Clerk 14 days to prepare the minutes of the meeting. For complete discussion, refer to audiotape.

Attest:

Margaret M. Long, Town Clerk