

**HOLDEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 28, 2023**

**6:30PM**

**Via Zoom**

Present: Stephanie Mulroy, Anthony Renzoni, Richard Bates Thomas Curran, Geri Herlihy

Others Present: Peter Lukes, Town Manager  
Steven Madaus, Town Counsel  
Ms. King, Assistant Town Manager  
Liz Fotos, Town Recorder (Participating remotely)

Chairman Mulroy called the Board of Selectmen meeting to order. Chairman Mulroy waived the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. Open, Set, Close Special Town Meeting Warrant**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Bates, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO OPEN THE TOWN MEETING WARRANT FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ON OCTOBER 16, 2023.** (Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Herlihy: yes; Renzoni: yes; Mulroy: yes).

Mr. Lukes stated there were two articles. First is to raise and appropriate funds for the modular classrooms at Dawson Elementary School including ancillary costs. He stated that they may consider adding architectural costs for any permanent work that may be done next fiscal year to make sure that bids were ready for next year.

Chairman Mulroy asked about the numbers.

Mr. Lukes replied that he would expect between \$250,000-\$300,000, however the ultimate project will probably be more and he would have those numbers to the Board as soon as possible.

Chairman Mulroy asked about the faster approach.

Mr. Lukes replied that he was trying to get it completed as soon as possible. He was working on the logistics, but the finances needed to be addressed first.

Sel. Curran asked how much prep work could be done before arrival.

Mr. Lukes replied they could plan it, but could not do anything until Town Meeting. He stated they will do as much as possible ahead of the modular arriving after approval from Town Meeting if they get it.

Sel. Renzoni asked about Article 2. He stated this was not vetted yet and he thinks it devalues the power of the vote of the existing delegation. He stated it was a well prepared article but it was not in front of them. He stated he was hesitant to send this one to Town Meeting.

Sel. Bates agreed with Sel. Renzoni.

Sel. Curran stated that to his understanding this Warrant Article was already a work in progress. He stated that they had already gone to the other towns. He stated that the issue of Holden adding a delegate was that it lowers the weight of each voter. It would be one person one vote. He stated that knowing this is something they had already vetted and they brought it forward, it is not coincidental; and he stated that he was in favor of putting it on the Warrant.

Sel. Herlihy stated she was under the impression that it was to help the subcommittee weightings the most. She stated that she thinks that they were made aware of this before hand.

Sel. Renzoni stated that he thought the school committee and the district forget that they exist because the five towns exist and they have not included the Board in the discussion of the amendment. He stated that they have worked for years to downsize that committee, and the first amendment that is made after that is passed is to move in the wrong direction and add another member. He stated by decreasing the power of a Holden vote it may make it fairer to another town but it takes power away from the Holden delegate and adds to the size of the committee. He stated Holden funds the most, and when it comes to cuts, is impacted the most. He stated that taking power is not in Holden's interest. He stated that is not even the debate; this was dropped on the Board and they may have debated it, but the Board has not vetted it. He stated he would move to strike this from Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Sel. Curran stated that the weighting and how it is accomplished goes back years. He stated that the weighting is too skewed and that is why this is coming to us. He stated that Holden is represented and the Board could have invited them to this meeting but choose not to.

Sel. Renzoni stated that if they had a major piece of policy that they have been preparing, regardless of their intent, they should have informed the Board prior. He stated that it is the Board's responsibility to scrub that information. He stated he was just read in now.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Bates, it was **VOTED BY 3-2 ROLL CALL VOTE TO STRIKE ARTICLE 2 FROM THE WARRANT ARTILCES OF THE SPEICAL TOWN ELECTION HELD ON OCTOBER 16, 2023.** (Bates: yes; Curran: no; Herlihy: no; Renzoni: yes; Mulroy: yes).

Warrant Article 2 has been removed from the Special Town Meeting.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Bates, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO SET THE WARRANT ARTICLES FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ON OCTOBER 16, 2023 AS AMENDED.** (Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Herlihy: yes; Renzoni: yes; Mulroy: yes).

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Bates, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO CLOSE THE WARRANT ARTICLES FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ON OCTOBER 16, 2023 AS AMENDED.** (Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Herlihy: yes; Renzoni: yes; Mulroy: yes).

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Bates, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO ADJOURN THE SEPTEMBER 28, 2023 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING.** (Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Herlihy: yes; Renzoni: yes; Mulroy: yes).

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_1/22/24\_\_\_\_\_