

**HOLDEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
May 20, 2019**

6:00PM

WRHS

Present: Chairman Renzoni, Tyler Gibbs, Geri Herlihy, Robert Lavigne, Chiara Barnes

Others Present: Peter Lukes, Town Manager
Brian Falk, Town Counsel
Stephanie King, Assistant Town Manager (6:21PM).
Liz Fotos, Town Recorder

Chairman Renzoni called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

1. Appointments, Licenses, Permits

Chairman Renzoni stated that they had permits back in front of them.

Mr. Lukes replied that there was a minor technical issue that they had with the ABCC and it has been corrected.

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE MCKINLAYS TRANSFER OF LIQUOR LICENSE AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Sel. Herlihy, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE PERMIT AS PRESENTED BY A VOTE OF 4-1.**
(Renzoni: abstain).

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **VOTED TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN ANY PARADE PERMITS THAT CAME FORWARD PERTAINING TO THE MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS.**

2. Discussion and positions on ATM Warrant Articles

Chairman Renzoni gave the floor to the Town Manager.

Mr. Lukes stated that there were two citizen petitions and the moderator contacted him last week with Warrant Article 28. He stated that there was a disagreement between the Town Moderator and himself, Town Counsel also disagreed with the Moderator's take on it. The Town Moderator did not believe that the article gave notice to those at Town Meeting. Mr. Lukes stated that the moderator heard them this afternoon and he will now allow the petitioner to render it. He stated that Mr. Balko was going to declare it out of order but will allow someone to challenge it and the petitioner can do so. He stated that if it passes, they can vote if not the can not vote. He stated that he does not anticipate a lot of negative sentiment towards this.

Mr. Lukes stated that Warrant Article 27 was also ruled out of order. He stated that the moderator discovered that according to a statute this issue has to be brought to full vote by the voters. He stated that according to the statute it has to be on the ballot by the Board of Selectmen and because it was not done this way, it is out of order. Mr. Lukes stated that he thinks this will stick.

Mr. Falk stated that this was unlike any other tax exemption and for whatever reason in 2008 it was a farm bill by ballot so it therefore has to go to ballot.

Chairman Renzoni asked if it needed Town Meeting.

Mr. Falk replied just ballot.

Sel. Lavigne asked if the petitioner had this information.

Mr. Lukes replied he did not believe so.

Chairman Renzoni stated that they needed to take positions on remaining Warrant Articles. He stated that they have to take positions in support or against some Articles. He stated that Sel. Lavigne wanted to discuss Article 7 and 8.

Sel. Lavigne suggested doing the remaining articles first.

Chairman Renzoni asked if there was any opposition to any other articles.

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO SUPPORT WARRANT ARTICLES 1-6 AND 9-24 AS PRESENTED.**

Chairman Renzoni stated that this was a great budget season. Sel. Lavigne agreed.

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO TAKE NO ACTION ON CITIZEN PETITIONS 27 AND 28 AS PRESENTED.**

Sel. Lavigne stated that historically the Board of Selectmen has not taken a position on Citizen Petitions as they let them stand on their own merit.

Mr. Lukes left the meeting at 6:10PM.

Chairman Renzoni stated that he has seen two different pieces of information with regards to Article 25 clause 22 of the Brave Act. He stated that he saw in a press release that this gave the parents or spouses the benefit.

Mr. Lukes returned to the meeting at 6:11PM.

Chairman Renzoni stated that he also saw \$400 but he thought that may have been dated.

Sel. Lavigne stated that it is \$400 but then it tiers up. He stated that 22A allows for \$750.

Mr. Falk stated that this is relatively new and that the session law was not yet updated.

Chairman Renzoni stated it looked as though this was changed so that going forward the tax exemption status could go to the parents in the event there was no spouse.

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO SUPPORT WARRANT ARTICLE 25 OF THE HOLDEN TOWN MEETING 2019 AS PRESENTED.**

Chairman Renzoni stated that with regards to Warrant Article 26 there may be someone that speaks against it. He stated that this would allow a Veteran to work as a volunteer for the town and receive pay not to exceed minimum wage. He stated that they would be eligible to earn up to \$1,500 in tax exemption if it is some type of work that could be fit into a Town need.

Sel. Lavigne stated that they believe the opposition of this would be that they would be able to have someone be a proxy to do the service for the Veteran. He stated that his understanding of this matter was that the Board of Selectmen would control it and that they would be able to put parameters around it to ensure they had controls in place.

Mr. Lukes stated that the Town did not have to create a position.

Sel. Lavigne asked if it needed to be taxable.

Mr. Lukes replied that it was taxable at the federal level, not the stated level.

Sel. Lavigne asked if the Town needed to gross up the earnings; he asked what the estimate impact of this would be.

Mr. Lukes replied that it was minimal.

Chairman Renzoni stated that the Town Manager would need to find value in the work and ensure that the work that was being done was not infringing on a current position in town. He stated that for someone who needs this and can do the work he can see value in this as an option.

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ENDORSE WARRANT ARTICLE 26 OF THE 2019 HOLDEN ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AS PRESENTED.**

Chairman Renzoni stated that he could present this article.

Sel. Lavigne stated that he wanted to revisit Warrant Articles 7 and 8.

Sel. Lavigne stated that they had this discussion before and that there was an overall sentiment that the Board was concerned with full day kindergarten, the money and the ongoing impact of it from the Town's perspective. He stated that the Board had felt as though the money could be better served by going into honors classes, social workers for the middle school or high school or other things. He stated that he wanted to bring it up again to see exactly where the Board stood, as the conversation took place a while back.

Sel. Herlihy stated that she was upset with how it was handled and it was put in place before the budget was approved.

Sel. Lavigne stated that if school budget dollar amount is approved the district can allocate the funds how the Superintendent wishes.

Sel. Barnes asked what the benefit of coming out against this would be.

Chairman Renzoni stated that it wouldn't stop it from passing.

Sel. Lavigne stated that it would just be a statement.

Ms. King entered the meeting at 6:21PM.

Sel. Lavigne stated that for the \$1.2 million it would cost to do the full day kindergarten they could add classroom teachers or do honor roll programs, or more.

Sel. Gibbs stated that he was for the full day kindergarten.

Chairman Renzoni stated that he was in favor of supporting it. He stated that he understood where Sel. Lavigne was coming from but that he thinks this starts to cross over. He stated that to be fair, the five towns met with the school district and said that they wanted a 3.5% max increase in the budget and they district came in at 3.9%. He stated that he is going to support it but that anyone is welcome to make a motion about it.

Sel. Lavigne stated he did not wish to make a motion.

Sel. Barnes asked if they start to take into account what the overwhelming majority wanted.

Sel. Lavigne replied that the Town has history of supporting the school committee; he stated that his concern was the snowball effect. He stated that they were adding \$1.2 million into the budget plus the increase in salary and retirement and OPEB and the question of a new school.

Mr. Lukes left the meeting at 6:24PM.

Chairman Renzoni stated that he has asked the questions about a new school and how they could be enough teachers when there are not even librarians in the elementary schools. He stated that it would be a lot to figure out.

Sel. Lavigne agreed and stated that he wanted to start to figure it out.

Mr. Lukes returned to the meeting at 6:25PM.

Sel. Lavigne stated that it was either full day kindergarten for free or nothing. He stated that there was no conversation surrounding it.

Sel. Gibbs asked if that was how the reimbursement worked.

Sel. Lavigne replied that he did not know because they did not have a discussion about it.

Sel. Herlihy stated that the conversation started and it was said that it was not in the budget this year; and now here it is.

Sel. Lavigne stated that the towns said a 3.5% increase and the district said it would be 6% for status quo; he stated that they came in at 3.9% which was less than they originally said which means something had to give.

Motion by Sel. Gibbs, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **VOTED TO SUPPORT WARRANT ARTICLE 7 AND 8 OF THE 2019 HOLDEN TOWN MEETING BY A VOTE OF 4-1.** (Lavigne: oppose).

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO RECESS TO TOWN MEETING AT 6:28PM AND RECONVENE AFTER TOWN MEETING WITH THE SOLE PURPOSE OF ADJOURNMENT.**

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ADJOURN THE MAY 20, 2019 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AT 9:02PM.**

APPROVED: 12/2/19