

**HOLDEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
April 2, 2021**

9:00AM

Memorial Hall

Present: Geri Herlihy, Tyler Gibbs, Chiara Barnes, Anthony Renzoni (participating remotely)

Others Present: Stephanie King, Assistant Town Manager
 Stephen Madaus, Town Counsel
 Liz Fotos, Town Recorder (participating remotely)

Not Present: Robert Lavigne, Peter Lukes.

Sel. Herlihy called the meeting to order at 9:00AM. The Board stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Sel. Herlihy stated that Sel. Renzoni would be participating remotely via telephone.

Special Meeting for Prop 2 ½ Override FY 21

Ms. King stated that at the last Fin Com meeting the Town was under budget by \$79,545 and they were faced with the question about what to do. She stated that they could vote for a Proposition 2.5% override or work with the budget and make cuts in order to balance the budget. She stated that there were some discussions about cuts to DPW Salary and how they could reallocate a portion from the Water/Sewer budget and put it in the general fund to reduce the amount needed to balance the budget. She stated that they could also look to cut capital or look to use the entire amount from free cash.

Sel. Herlihy stated that Mr. Challenger, Fin Com Chair was present at the meeting. She asked if there was anything he would like to add.

Mr. Challenger stated that as a Town, there is a number of options that the town could move forward with due to the de minimis amount that was being discussed. He stated that they were only in this position because the Town Manager kept the budget very lean this year and while they had money allocated for the school district, they (WRSD) was requiring more than that amount.

Mr. Challenger stated that Fin Com still had two additional budget debates scheduled. He stated that it was his opinion that there was no need for the override at this time. He stated that they should not have it for such a small amount and that prior to enacting it they need to explain it to the community and do community outreach. He stated that speaking for himself with the knowledge he has by serving on Fin Com, he does not feel as though they need it this year.

Sel. Gibbs stated that he agreed with Mr. Challenger's assessment and that it sounded as though there were options for this year and that they should not move forward with this today.

Sel. Renzoni stated that he thinks they will see a reduction in the school assessment and thinks at least two of the other communities will fail to pass the budget. He stated that the need for the override did not exist this year but that it will next year if the school district continues in this direction. He stated that it will be impossible to pay that bill and run a municipal budget.

Sel. Herlihy stated that she agreed and that they knew that the time was coming. She stated that a Prop 2 ½ override would be forever. She stated that today was the deadline to take this action.

Mr. Madaus stated that the Board would not need to take an action today if they did not wish to move forward with the override.

The Board agreed to take no action.

Motion by Sel. Gibbs, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO ADJOURN THE APRIL 2, 2021 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AT 9:15AM.** (Gibbs: yes; Barnes: yes; Herlihy: yes; Renzoni: yes).

APPROVED: 7/12/21