

**BOARD OF
SELECTMEN
MEETING
MINUTES**

February 11, 2015

Town Hall

Nipmuc High School, Pleasant Street

Chairman Robert J. Fleming; Selectman Kenneth Picard; Selectman James Brochu; Town Manager, Blythe C. Robinson; Executive Assistant, Sandra Hakala, Lauren Goldberg, Town Counsel.

1 The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm. Chairman Fleming opened the meeting and reviewed
2 the agenda. Selectman Brochu did not attend the discussion prior to the Special Town meeting.

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4 **REVIEW MOTIONS**

5 The Selectmen reviewed the motions for the Special Town Meeting and prepared for questions
6 or concerns regarding them.

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8 Ms. Robinson updated the Board with how the acquisition would provide additional parking for
9 Town Hall, the provisions for the preservation of historically significant buildings, tenant
10 relocation, and budget/proposed funding for 2 Grove Street.

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12 Chairman Fleming will read the first motion and Chairman Gazoorian of the Recreation
13 Commission will read the second concerning the repair of the exterior staircase and landing on
14 the Ramsey building.

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16 **Motion #1:** At 6:25PM Chairman Fleming motioned to recess the regular meeting for 35 minutes
17 and reconvene at the STM at Nipmuc High School.

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19 Poll taken: James Brochu, aye Robert Fleming aye, Kenneth Picard, aye.

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21 At 7:00PM Chairman Fleming reopened the meeting at Nipmuc High School.

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23 At the conclusion of the Special Town Meeting the Selectmen joined the Finance Committee
24 meeting. Chairman Fleming began the discussion by telling all present that the MURSD
25 School's draft budget included an increase to Upton of over \$1.7 million next year. He wanted to
26 discuss this with both boards so that we can give the multi-board some feedback at the meeting
27 on February 19th as to what Upton's strategy is going to be.

28
29 The boards jointly discussed the fact that the Town's budget cannot support an increase of this
30 size within Proposition 2 ½. An override will be needed to meet a request of this amount. The
31 Boards decided that they would support an override, the amount to be determined at a later date,
32 and whether or not it would include funds for anything else, such as capital needs. They also
33 decided that they would prefer to put the question on the annual election ballot for May 4th.
34 They further discussed putting an article on the ATM warrant to move the monies in the school
35 stabilization fund to the general stabilization fund. They discussed scenarios for the overall
36 budget should the sister community in MURSD not support the funds needed for the schools.
37 There was general agreement that at if an override passed in Upton and the full amount not
38 needed for the budget, that the Selectmen schedule a special election at a later date before the tax
39 rate would be set to ask the voters to approve an underride on the budget.

40

41 The Boards also discussed what to recommend to the voters on the matter of stipends for elected
42 officials. Their intent is to implement the general bylaw change passed at the May 2014 Town
43 Meeting and budget \$500 for each elected official, and \$750 for each chairperson.

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45 **ADJOURN MEETING**

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47 ***Motion #2:*** At 8:07 PM motion was made by Selectman Brochu to adjourn the meeting.

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49 Second: Selectman Picard, Unanimous: Chairman Fleming

50

51 Respectfully submitted,

52

53 Sandra Hakala

54 Executive Assistant