

SELECTMEN'S (Regional Casino) MEETING
Lakeville Library
Wednesday, August 8, 2007
7:00 PM

On August 8, 2007, the Board of Selectmen held a meeting at 7:00 PM at the Library in Lakeville. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Yeatts at 7:00 PM. Selectmen present were: Selectman Yeatts, Selectman Evirs and Selectman Maksy. Also present were Rita Garbitt, Town Administrator and Christine Weston, Recording Secretary.

1. Review the list of Regional Representatives

Chairman Yeatts reviewed the sign in sheet and noted there were 14 (including Lakeville) communities represented here this evening.

2. Discuss naming the Regional Group of Representatives

The Casino Regional Task Force was decided upon for the name of the group

3. Finalize the Statement of Concern

Chairman Yeatts said the Secretary of Economic Development, Daniel O'Connell, is advising the Governor on the casino issue. We have an appointment to meet on August 27th at 9 AM with Secretary O'Connell and he would like a list of who is coming and a copy of the Statement of Concerns by Friday. We will forward it to Steve Smith at SRPEDD so that he can make the changes and get it to them by Friday. Mr. Smith said the attempt of this draft was not intended to be a position paper that says yes or no to the casino, just concerns in terms of bargaining power. There is an obligation to negotiate this properly. This will need some level of State approval. You can change it to a position paper if that is what you want. The audience is the State officials.

Michael O'Donnell, Selectman from Carver, said as he understood it, the group was not taking a position. Mr. Smith said the document was not intended to make that statement so it does not say yay or nay. Mr. O'Donnell said that he thought we should build a consensus and try to solidify the voters that reside in this region and try to shut this thing down if we can and have a fallback of how to get out of this if we can. Chairman Yeatts said she thought that is where we are coming from, but the Statement of Concerns, if it stays just that, can be used if we are forced to accept it in this area, so that it will not have to be done again. She then distributed the cover letter and that was briefly reviewed.

John Bruno, Selectman from Halifax, said he agreed with Mr. O'Donnell. We do not want to be in the position of accepting this as inevitable and then squeezing money out. We do not think it belongs here for all these reasons, and if it does occur, then there are significant issues that have to be dealt with. Perhaps that covers it in the cover letter. That was his only comment.

Matthew Albanese, Selectman from West Bridgewater, said he did not think the group should take a stance one way or the other. We do not want to have to reverse our stance down the road and then maybe dilute the impact of what we have here tonight. It may be unanimous going

down the road, but we should reserve judgment until we get more info on this issue. That is our task as the Task Force before we make a judgment.

Joe Pacheco, Selectman from Raynham, said he was also here to convey a message from Senator Pacheco. The Senator wanted to convey that he is in favor of expanding gaming and he has filed legislation in the past that contiguous communities would receive mitigation through the compact. He will be holding a meeting to educate officials in these communities.

Mark Oliari, Selectman from Bridgewater, said his Board did not take a vote on this statement, nor did they have a discussion about being in favor or not. He is representing his Board on the possible impacts, so otherwise he would be uncomfortable to say anything. Middleborough is a Town, and they voted to go in a particular direction and that is their right. Since it did pass and obviously it is not inevitable, and there is the mitigation as in the draft, but his Board did not say whether they were in favor. So he did not feel it could justifiably go into this letter since personal viewpoints means nothing.

Larry Ashley, Selectman from Freetown, said the intent was to look at the impact of a casino, not whether we are for or against, and he is not prepared to do that either. He is here to speak about the impact on the community. If the group decided to be for or against the casino, he would then have to step down.

Joe Freitas, Selectman from Plympton, said there was not a Town wide vote whether to be for or against the casino, but his Board has discussed that Plympton would be the most impacted due to its size. So Plympton is opposed to the casino. There is nothing wrong in opposing it, and we are adamantly opposed. How are we going to pay for this unless something happens with the proposal? We cannot make it. We have trouble meeting our financial obligations today. We need to protect ourselves. Mr. Freitas said he was surprised that the other Towns have not taken a stand, but as for the Town of Plympton, we are against it. Now let us go to work and see what we can get done.

Chairman Yeatts suggested working on the Statement of Concerns and then figure out what we want to do as far as a cover letter. She told the group that Lakeville has not officially taken a stand either.

Kenneth Tavares, Selectman from Plymouth, said that his Board has not taken a position at this time. We need to keep our options open until after the meeting with Secretary O'Connell to see if we are or are not going to get concessions. We are concerned about the education and housing perspective. We expect something to be given in return for bordering the community that will have a casino.

Mr. Oliari said that he wanted to know what the lottery impact is going to be. We need to find out how a casino would affect our lottery disbursements. It may only be \$30,000-40,000 and that is an impact. We are cash strapped, and he was sure everyone is and do not have that extra to lose.

Mr. Bruno asked that the minutes be published in about a week. We are heading forward as a group and we want to make sure everyone knows exactly what is going on. If I have a set of minutes, then all my Board members will know.

Chairman Yeatts said that we have a representative from Whitman, Selectman Dan Salvucci, who we did not initially include in our group. Mr. Salvucci said his Board has not taken a vote on the casino, but as Chairman, he had concerns with Route 18. The highway is too small to handle increased traffic heading to the casino. He did not think the group reached out far enough. Maybe not the Berkshires, but as far north as Quincy will be impacted on Routes 3 and Route 24. It is inconceivable how much money it will take to upgrade the streets and also take land since they will have to widen the streets. Chairman Yeatts said she is concerned about the trash going to Western Mass and how it will get there. Mr. Smith said he would recommend at least a ten (10) mile radius.

Jim Potter, Selectman from Wareham, said his Board did take a vote, and they are against the casino. One point he wanted to bring up and thought the group should consider researching, is the actual ability of the Mashpee tribe to have land in Middleborough. The Secretary of the Interior approves tribal land. The negotiations are in the State's hands, but the land to be in trust falls under the Secretary of the Interior. Their own documents say they will approve land into trust outside a tribal acquisition area only if it shows tribal self determination. Notwithstanding tribal self determination, if it outweighs the community impact, they may not allow the application. If the land to be acquired increases, then this will be subject to greater scrutiny and in the final determination that was handed down to the Mashpee tribe, under the history of the tribe it defines family members sharing relationship of blood and being within 20 miles. Middleborough is 38 miles. The census shows families that were involved, name changes are also included. They only included the censuses of Mashpee, but not any other censuses of families that live in other areas of Massachusetts. They did work with Mashpee to get recognition, but they want it elsewhere. So we need to look at the big picture, and maybe it is outside the bounds of what they should be doing since this has not been acquired as tribal land just yet. Chairman Yeatts said she understood that no one has ever done this under this administration so we would have a year and a half before it would happen.

Mr. Bruno said that all the points are very well made from two (2) weeks ago, and we should at least all agree on a list of concerns. Like most of us have said that we do not believe it should be here. Chairman Yeatts said she was concerned with the first page of the draft, but OCPC had sent a suggestion thru the email that they had sent. Mr. Tavares said it starts to take a tone "Expect a seat" at the table. He knew that "demand" is a strong word but maybe there is another word. Chairman Yeatts thought anticipate was a better word. Mr. Tavares said he thought the group needed to demand a seat, a stronger word. Mr. Oliari said it should be a matter of right; it is not an option, not a privilege, it must be a right and should be included or requested as a matter of right. It cannot be interpreted as a maybe. We must be extended a seat at the table and must be included to negotiate concerns. Both Mr. Albanese and Richard LaCamera, Town Administrator of Rochester, thought there was a need to put in the impact of the surrounding communities regarding water. Mr. Albanese thought it would probably fall under Page 5 - Economic Impacts.

Chairman Yeatts reviewed Page 2. Mr. O'Donnell asked about the 20-25,000 trips, is that inclusive of the trips and employees? Mr. Smith said he was not sure where that number came from. It may have come from other casinos and their facts. That is a very unofficial number. Mr. Bruno said that was published in the newspaper coming from the tribe, and I think adding that estimate is at least necessary. Pat Ciaramella, Executive Director of OCPC, said that is

based on two (2) persons per car, and I do not think it includes the actual people that work there. It could be about 10,000. Mr. Oliari said we cannot put words in there if they do not know where the figures came from and pin us in the corner. A suggestion was made to footnote the figure, even if the numbers came from Connecticut. Mr. Oliari said we need to be able to justify the scenario of itself at least. If they do not have that many cars, they could not support a casino on 500 cars a day. We do not have correct data, so it is not our fault. Rita Garbitt, Lakeville Town Administrator, said there is also going to be a golf course and a water park which will generate additional traffic as well. Mr. Hadfield said it may have come from an official or unofficial source and putting a number in may be inappropriate, but we are talking about a massive amount of traffic. Maybe we should talk about the sheer volume rather than the numbers. Mr. Oliari said if we are making that estimate, then that must be a secure estimate. Mr. Ciaramella said he would like to get the numbers from the Regional Planning Agency from the Foxwoods area. Under Secretary Stern is running a model that would show the impact of this in the future.

Mr. Tavares asked why can't we put the burden on the State since they need to do some kind of a study, and they need to know how much money they will give us by how much traffic will be coming in there. His big concern is that Middleborough fast tracked us, and he was concerned that could also happen on the State level. We need to hammer this out at the State level. It was asked if anyone knew how many vehicle trips are anticipated on Route 495. Mr. Smith responded yes. We can say comparable facilities generate this figure and put those numbers in from Mohegan Sun or Foxwoods since we have access to those numbers. We clearly want to show that this is a large impact. Mr. Pacheco said that if the tribe does everything they say they want to do or plan on doing, this is mega compared to Foxwoods. They have 50,000 cars a day and they do not have the water park, etc. Mr. LaCamera noted the tribe is talking about buying another 200-300 acres. It will get bigger and bigger, not smaller. It was thought that the vehicle trips can be figured since the Cape is doing an evacuation plan to get over the two (2) bridges. These are real world numbers, not a guesstimate. It is a way to do it. You can prove it.

Mr. LaCamera said that there should be something put in the statement about future expansion. Ms. Yeatts said the word should be potential for future expansion. Sandra MacFarlane, Selectwoman from Kingston, said as currently proposed, the traffic count is well over 40,000 trips per day and should be thoroughly studied as to its impacts since we do not know what is coming in the future or what will be added to it. Mr. Salvucci thought that the estimated count is okay. It was asked how the traffic plan would address evacuation in case of a problem with the Plymouth power plant. Selectman Maksy asked if Plymouth was in the process of working with the power plant now. Mr. Tavares said that the licensing process is starting now, but most of us in the community do not believe that the plan in place or any other plan that could ever be thought up could evacuate the area; it would be a useless exercise. We had one (1) cement truck roll over, and we had to close the entire Town. Mr. Smith said the second bullet on page three, he would like to amend to 5-10 (five to ten) mile radius. He would also add a comment about the evacuation plan, but wanted to broaden the size of the initial study and outside the 10 (ten) mile radius. It was asked if that radius was sufficient. Mr. Smith said within ten (10) miles we do have to do a pretty intensive study. Where there are corridors, we will have to do a more intensive study. Mr. Hadfield has that information to distribute. Mr. Pacheco said the Route 138 and 495 plans have to be added. Mr. O'Donnell said he did not see Route 58 either. Mr. Ashley said it was mentioned that Route 79 did not seem to be addressed either. Mr.

Oliari said maybe we should add the SRPEDD communities that the study falls in, so if it hits the ten (10) mile radius, then they should study the entire community, not just one street in Duxbury. There are a lot of communities that the radius barely touches. Mr. O'Donnell said Route 3 does not even get touched by the map. Ms. Yeatts suggested making the radius a bigger circle. Mr. O'Donnell said it should be extended out to Whitman. Mr. Ashley said he thought it needed to be bigger. You do not want to soft pedal this. You need to put some demands in this, and we want to poke them in the eye and make it clear. Mr. Hadfield thought it may water down the analysis. This site generates the traffic, and it converges as it closes in. The impacts are greater at the middle and less as they go out. Within the ten (10) mile circle there are major concerns already as far as traffic regardless of a casino. If we go too much beyond this, it waters it down, and it makes the State look at it and say it is crazy. Not to minimize this, but the impacts are greater as you get closer to the inner circle. Mr. Ashley said you can look at the eye of the storm, you may not have damage, but you will have wind. Mr. Bruno said this has the most impact to Halifax, since we are so close. The capillary system will work itself out. No one just drives one way. If we do not include the back ups that will happen on Route 3 to Route 44, it is no different than someone that is on Route 44 right in front of the casino. Somehow the study has to express the impact on the whole region, at least from Route 495 down. Route 24 right now is almost impassible. Route 3 almost and the bottom of Route 44 are almost there too. So that to me is the driving issue, whether a casino, a water park, or a football stadium, it is the impact on the rest of us.

Mr. Smith said he was trying to say that within the five to ten (5-10) mile radius should be a detailed traffic study. Outside that radius should also include a study and analysis, not every country road though. He was not saying that Route 79 will not be studied. Ms. Yeatts suggested adding Routes 138, 58, 79, and 104. Mr. Ashley said the study should consider essentially any Route that is in the circle. Mr. Smith said they would definitely expand the list of the roads. Mr. Salvucci said perhaps make a footnote that beyond the ten (10) mile radius, there are other concerns of developments in motion, i.e. former Air Force base, the Cordage Park in Plymouth, and any future developments in the surrounding towns, like shopping malls. It should address those projects that are in the works now which will add traffic. Mr. Smith said he would add that. Mr. Oliari said this document is to get us to the point. Subdivisions will happen afterwards, so we do not want to get watered down and put traffic, education, public safety, then go into these other details when sitting at the table trying to put a financial estimate on this. Ms. Yeatts agreed with that, but traffic is a big concern to all of us at this table. We want to make sure that when they see it that this is big, this is huge. Mr. Ciaramella said he did not see anything about the train. Ms. Yeatts said it ends before your statement is in there. It is at the end of what they did over again. The transit connection to greater Attleboro would come after it. Ms. Smith said he was thinking to put it under other transportation as another point.

Ms. Yeatts asked if anyone had any comments about the environmental impact. Mr. Salvucci said this document is for building the casino. What about 40B low income housing? Ms. Yeatts said that might be somewhere else. It was asked about the draw on the aquifer, does that include the water park. Ms. Yeatts said she did not know. What bothered her is that they are calling for an average daily usage of 750,000 gallons of water per day with a maximum usage of 1.5 million gallons. If they are considering a 24-hour period a day and a peak of 1.5 million gallons, that is twice the average, and we do not know if the water park is included in that. Ms. Garbitt said the draw on the aquifer could cause nearby shallow wells to go dry, like in Plympton. In Halifax they are all on private shallow wells. Mr. Freitas asked if they will supply their own water. Ms.

Yeatts said they will get it from Middleborough. Mr. Smith thought that it should be noted that the water park may exacerbate problems with the aquifer. It was noted that a lowering of the water table will happen, the second thing is wells that could go dry. You cannot dispute that taking 1.5 million gallons will not make it go down. Ms. Yeatts said the area is in a stressed basin already. Ms. MacFarlane said the local aquifers should be noted since there are several. It was agreed that the local aquifers would be lowered from the water park.

Ms. Yeatts spoke about public safety. She was confused about the payment for mutual aid and how that would effect our mutual aid agreements. Mr. Smith added that Middleborough will get paid to do their part, but not the surrounding towns. Ms. Yeatts thought the hazmat part needed to be stronger. It will not strain, it will cripple the area. Maybe a separate bullet is needed for the hazmat issue and make it stronger by saying that for the smaller communities, it will cripple their resources. Mr. Pacheco said if there are multiple arrests, towns may not have enough places to put the people, and we should consider that. Mr. Freitas said the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department is working on a rolling lock-up. Plympton does not have a lock up. We can call the Sheriff's Department, and they have their truck there in a short period of time. Mr. Salvucci said if the casino has their own police force, then maybe they should have their own lock up. Mr. Bruno said he was not concerned about Middleborough having a hazmat incident. He was concerned if it happens in Halifax, and they only have two (2) firemen on duty to clean it up. Mr. Smith noted these issues. Mr. Salvucci asked what would cause the increase in hazmat a concern? Mr. Burno said Halifax's Fire Chief said since construction deliveries, trash removal, oil deliveries are needed just to supply the facility, there is an increased likelihood for something to happen. Ms. Yeatts said they will also have gas stations on the site. Mr. Albanese asked about the electricity supply; they may have rolling blackouts. Ms. Yeatts said they will pay 13 million to upgrade plus the cost of pad mount transformers to the Middleborough Gas & Electric.

Ms. Yeatts asked about other transportation. Mr. O'Donnell said you included the train station in Lakeville, but we have other commuter rail stations in Kingston and Halifax. Ms. Yeatts said Lakeville is at the end of the line, but if they had buses to pick up at the other stations, then would take the strain off of Lakeville. Mr. LaCamera said there is no additional capacity at the Lakeville station. The original 450 spaces were filled the first day it opened, and now there are 1,000 spaces filled a day in Lakeville. Mr. Smith said that was a good point. Ms. Yeatts said there is also the possibility of a spur. Mr. Smith said maybe a shuttle at the tracks from Route 44. Ms. Yeatts said that should be suggested. Mr. Smith said they could suggest something if you want. Perhaps suggest looking at a train station or an additional stop. Mr. O'Donnell said that he was concerned about jet traffic at the Plymouth Airport with high rollers coming in there and jet setters. Mr. Smith said he would put that in. Mr. Smith said he will include language regarding Lakeville or any other MBTA station that is proposed for a bus link to carry passengers, but we want to know what the tribe is suggesting to transport the patrons to the casino. Ms. MacFarlane said if you look at the map, under the word Kingston, there is an MBTA station and there will be a 730 unit 40R near there. Another 630 unit 40R at Cordage Park in Plymouth. This will encourage these towns to be "bedroom communities" and people living there will be bussed to the casino as employees, not to play. That is our biggest concern. Mr. Albanese said we can add that in there. Mr. Oliari said as far as the casino and the college, anything would paralyze us with increased traffic. It increases whenever college is in session. It would affect our commuters going to work with students coming in the morning. This is a little unique to Bridgewater, so it needs to be taken into consideration. The College President is very

very close to the Governor, and it holds a lot of power. Mr. Smith said he will compile the notes and email them to Ms. Yeatts.

Ms. Yeatts next spoke about housing. Mr. Salvucci thought that the word migrants should be removed and another word should be used; the appearance is not what we would normally convey. Mr. Albanese thought it should be substituted for residents. Mr. Smith reminded everyone that Secretary O'Connell is in charge of the agency promoting 40B's, and they may not like that too much. Mr. Ashley said you will see a lot of developers saying they can build 25 houses rather than 5 houses, and then that impacts the schools, police and fire, etc. The housing impact that happened in Connecticut will certainly happen here. Developers will be looking at the money they will make. It will be lower value housing, since the casino will not pay the type of wage to support a higher valued house. Something needs to be in there, so word it as you want to. Mr. Albanese said to put the exploitation of residential housing by developers then in parenthesis, 40B, 40R, etc. Ms. Yeatts said regarding the line we can anticipate an influx of casino workers to the area, put instead as well. Mr. Salvucci asked if there is anyone here in real estate. Do we know if real estate will cost more or less closer to the area? Mr. Albanese said that should be added as a bullet, the effect on property values. Mr. Salvucci said then workers would be seeking housing further away. That will impact the areas in the 15 mile radius. Mr. Evirs said the current housing for the workers is in Taunton, New Bedford, Brockton, and Fall River. They will go there first, so maybe a comment in the housing section regarding the current inventory of housing stock and those communities. Those people will learn the driving shortcuts and will not go on the major highways. Mr. Albanese said they will only go so far. They will not commute 45 minutes to an hour. It is a good point though, just the same. Mr. Oliari said in those cities, there are a lot of ethnic groups and also religious groups. You will see the various ethnicities try to group together, like New Bedford has a large Portuguese population.

Ms. Yeatts said the next item was education. Mr. Ashley and Ms. MacFarlane spoke about the potential for 24 different languages to be required in the schools. They thought there needed to be some antidotal language in there that there will be a few dozen different languages. Mr. Smith said he did read that in Norwich, CT, 30% of the town speaks different languages. Mr. Tavares said he could get that report to the group. Ms. Yeatts suggested maybe that should be put in parenthesis about the amount like 27 and also many different languages. Mr. Albanese suggested adding without the corresponding burden. Mr. Oliari said on the last line of 7, the casino should provide, have it say that they are obligated to provide. It was suggested that the amount not be just given a few dollars. It should cover adequately the costs. Mr. Albanese suggested the word offset instead of cover.

Ms. Yeatts said that under economic impacts, they have already included the loss of lottery money. Mr. LaCamera said also to be considered is the economic impact on existing businesses. If existing infrastructure is not there, it will also impact future business. Ms. Yeatts asked if local businesses are going to have to pay more to get help if everyone goes to work at the casino. Mr. Potter said the towns will suffer. Since the casino can give you a meal for 50 cents and give things away free, this will close the restaurants around here. Ms. Yeatts said 5-10,000 people will work there and also they say that the people that work there will not want to eat or shop there. Mr. Smith said he had not heard anything that is not in the document already. Ms. Yeatts asked about using the wording cause serious economic hardship to give it a little more punch. Mr. Potter said that a casino will affect the revenue stream for the community if the businesses go under should be added. Some communities have very few businesses as it is. Mr. O'Donnell

said many of the business people donate to the Little League and that will dry up. Ms. Yeatts said perhaps loss of lottery money should be its own bullet.

The next item discussed was social costs. Ms. Yeatts said this is actually in the Middleboro agreement. They will give \$40,000, but that is not enough even for one social worker. Mr. Smith said the proponents will gloss over that, so we are looking for something better. Ms. MacFarlane said if the employees come to the area, they will have general health issues which will impact local hospitals and other health care facilities. Mr. Oliari said one of the concerns we have for Bridgewater is the influence on such a large number of impressionable young adults that will get on the train and ride down to the casino without a lot of seasoning. If Bridgewater State is going to become a university, that could greatly impact the concerns of this group. This will cause some serious concerns with the college students since they are young and drink a lot. Most are 21 by their junior year. Mr. Albanese noted that there is also Stonehill College and other surrounding colleges that could be there within a ten (10) minute ride.

The last piece of the document is the ending. Mr. Smith suggested that the second sentence read that the impacts are both positive and negative, basically no positives but the money. Ms. MacFarlane said she felt it should be revised to say we feel it is our opinion that the impacts will be generally negative to the surrounding communities. Mr. LaCamera said for the last sentence, we are not saying for or against but at the beginning of the sentence, "if the casino happens the surrounding communities cannot be expected to absorb the negative impacts". Mr. Oliari asked why do we even need that paragraph. Mr. O'Donnell said it would be a summation. Mr. Smith said we could change it to, we and our future, our communities, since you are signing this collectively. Ms. Yeatts said on the letter we did have a signature page, but will probably change it since not everyone likes the collectively word. We were going to try and have this page signed tonight for the letter to the Governor. Ms. Yeatts suggested if the proposed project goes forward, our communities are entitled to have a voice on issues that impact our communities. Mr. Smith said we can change it to, we are entitled to have a voice in our future. Mr. Oliari suggested changing the word must to keep so that it is consistent all the way through the document. Mr. Evirs said it should be written without becoming opinionated. That is fine since some are for and some are against and some could go both ways, so it is most likely better that we are a culmination of all. Leave the one opinioned statement out. Mr. Albanese said that Middleborough feels they are entitled, and he did not want to be like that.

Ms. Yeatts said we must have a voice on the issues that we represent. Mr. O'Donnell said the only issue with the last part is that it seems to assume that the casino is a good thing or something that the group agrees too. He did not think that is necessarily the case, so change not to just mitigate and compensate, that we should have a decision making part in whether it goes here or not. Since no one has even asked us, Middleborough should not get to decide this all on their own. We want to see that our voice is expanded, not just with money compensation, even if we have to go that route at all. Mr. Albanese said but we may have a community that does want it. Ms. Yeatts said there are a lot of State Representatives that represent Middleborough and other communities and that is why we are speaking up since we do not know how it will go. Mr. Albanese said the Legislature will drive this and at some point there will be votes cast. Representative Calter said it is the Governor's role to negotiate a compact, and if that is the direction he goes, and that is not a certainty, then it is up to the Legislature to expand gaming to Class III casinos. There is not much of an appetite in the Legislature to expand gaming in the

State of Massachusetts. The Governor has not reached his decision regarding expanding gaming. If he did conclude that it would be good for the State, then there would be a comprehensive plan to look at many sites, and it would move at a snails pace. A mouse cannot eat an elephant and for this region to absorb this is a Herculean task. They are not looking at how to mitigate the problems, it is if the problems can be mitigated. The Legislature is very skeptical and the speaker is not for this.

Mr. Albanese thanked Representative Calter for the information and said he does feel that to be true at this point in time. Mr. O'Donnell said he appreciated that some people may think having a project like this is a benefit. Middleborough feels that way. However, the people effected by it outside of Middleborough should not accept it as a given just because Middleborough has. Mr. Albanese said we all have duties to represent our communities. You are absolutely right. We have to speak out and address it. We would be negligent if we didn't. Mr. O'Donnell said we should have a voice if it belongs here, and also we should have a voice on how to mitigate it if it does come here. Mr. Albanese said so change the sentence that we need to have a voice if casino gambling is appropriate for this region. Mr. O'Donnell said he agreed. He thought we should have that opportunity to have input and understands it is not up to him, it is up to the State Legislature. Mr. Pacheco said it is up to the State, but where it goes is tribal location, not the State. Representative Calter for the tribe yes, but the Governor is looking for expanding it, not just through the tribe, but for private business. Mr. Pacheco said his town just went for its first override ever and is strapped for cash. Raynham does not have money to fight a legal fight that we will not win. Mr. O'Donnell said he thought we should have the opportunity to not concede that it will go there, and we should have a voice if it should go there, and if it does, how do we mitigate it.

Mr. Maksy said there are over 1.4 million people that need to decide if they want this so there needs to be a referendum. The Governor needs to know there are over 250,000 citizens represented by this Task Force. Ms. Yeatts said we are having a forum on Monday night to see what the citizens of Lakeville have to say and ask any questions. So together we need to know exactly what we want to say to conclude it. This is the last thing they will read, and it is important. She suggested the wording "The proposed facility would have a transforming...if in fact the obstacles we define can even be overcome...". Mr. O'Donnell said if we change it to the surrounding or regional communities. Maybe not everyone agrees but the 250,000 people that we represent, it is owed to them that they have a say in this, not just 3,000 people in Middleborough. Mr. Smith said he did not know what the exact words would be, but something like this facility will change our communities, mitigation or no mitigation, and we want a voice in these issues in negotiating. Mr. O'Donnell said the voice should be just as Middleborough had a voice, does this facility belong in this region. Then if so, let us bargain back and forth on that. Mr. Smith said that would be okay.

Mr. Tavares said that the group could ask in the last paragraph that they slow this process down. The Governor and the Legislature needs to know that they need to take more time to get answers. We do not even have the information to make a rational decision. He would like to hear what Representative Calter is saying, but my community went to bed at midnight with one agreement and woke up to something else. So we need to slow this down and say take your time and get the facts. Mr. Albanese said that regional communities must be included in each step of the process. Ms. MacFarlane suggested that a sentence similar to "to date, the Town of Middleborough is the only town to be afforded the opportunity to voice its opinion on this issue

and the surrounding towns should also be afforded the right to have a voice in this process. Mr. Pacheco said then they will say that all we need to do is have a town meeting and ask the question. Ms. MacFarlane said but we didn't. We voted to slow down the process. Mr. Pacheco said but to make a truly credible document, we cannot say that then. The document that we have here says what we want to accomplish, otherwise, it would be putting the blame on someone else and that then should be us. Mr. Oliari said the reason Middleborough was able to meet and discuss this is that they understood the impact to the community and that they had all the pieces of the puzzle. We have not had meetings in Bridgewater since we do not have all the information. Middleborough can step up and say we are getting this much for schools, police, fire. Mr. Albanese asked how could Middleborough understand this. Mr. Oliari said everyone that would come here would agree that they would want to have the information in order to discuss it.

Mr. Tavares said to be careful of what you ask for. Without getting the studies that you ask for, people do not understand all that we are talking about. Middleborough saw the money and grabbed it, but the rest of us need the information before we make a decision. He was afraid that people would see the almighty dollar and so we should not take a vote right now. Mr. Albanese said the Selectmen in Middleborough are either most gifted or the most crazed. Mr. Evirs said his opinion was that Middleborough's opinion has been bought and paid for. Part of their agreement was to offer their positive opinion in favor of the casino. Ms. Yeatts said so the sentence is out. Mr. O'Donnell said he understood that this is not a perfect document and what we are trying to do is hash out a number of issues in a reasonable way. Ms. Yeatts said we cannot give it to Secretary O'Connell without giving it to the Governor as well, so we probably need to address it as well. We should list all the towns on the cover letter, but they will be on the signature page. Chawner Hurd, Lakeville resident, said the Task Force should vote to ratify this document with the changes made. Representative Calter said he thought the group had done a very comprehensive job on the letter.

Jack Hunter, Planning Director in Carver, said he really appreciates all the positions from the various communities and where you are all coming from. You run a very good meeting. This is a very good starting point, but he was concerned about looking at the trees before the forest, and falling into the trap as Middleborough did. He assured the group that after having talked to other selectmen in towns where a casino is located, they would start lobbying to say no. They have 120 days to make a decision so you should lobby for that and say no first and mitigate second. The Governor will see it and say, if you throw money at it, then it will be alright. So he encouraged the members to go back to your Select Boards so you do not fall into the same trap as the Mohegan and Foxwoods communities did.

Ms. Yeatts said she did not feel like the group was endorsing the casino. We are walking the line. I do not think we can get the united opinion here for this document that needs to go for Friday. We would rather be heard as not exactly right than not be heard at all. The Governor will make a decision by Labor Day. Mr. Hunter said he still encouraged the Select Boards to make a decision before Labor Day. Then on the document itself, under economic development, there is also a black hole effect where it actually stops new growth. People do not want to build offices or medical offices in the immediate surrounding area. Mr. Albanese said the purpose of what we are trying to do is get a seat at the table to possibly say no. We need to be part of the process to say no, not just voice concerns. Middleborough took a vote, and that was the end of it. We were not part of the process.

Carol Linda DiCristophano, resident of Plympton, said she has been involved with this and reiterates what Mr. Hunter said. She did not think it would be giving up anything and you should at least say the towns were skeptical and frustrated. Everyone kind of wants to give up on should it be here. She said she had four (4) pages of issues that she would have liked to have seen addressed this evening and is upset since she feels that the conversation is over and wanted to put it in the document. She did not know what more the average citizen can do to make sure that Representatives would take our message to the Governor and State. Mr. Albanese said we are all here on a volunteer capacity, and we have enough strains in our own communities. There will be a lot of opportunity to get concerns addressed. There will be other meetings. This is not going to end tonight, but we need to.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Oliari and seconded, it was

VOTED: To move the motion.
Unanimous vote.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Ashley, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell, it was:

VOTED: To ratify and sign the document and forward it along to the appropriate individuals, i.e. the Governor and Secretary O'Connell.
Unanimous vote.

Signatures were then collected on the signature page. Ms. Yeatts said she would get the missing signatures tomorrow.

4. Discuss cover letter to Governor Patrick

Ms. Yeatts said the meeting with Secretary O'Connell is Monday, August 27th at 9:00 AM and we need to also decide who is going to go. Minor changes were made to the cover letter to the Governor. She did not think they wanted to make demands of the Governor. Mr. O'Donnell stated that the Governor does work for us. The letter will go both to the Governor and Secretary O'Connell and say that we look forward to meeting with you on August 27th to discuss our concerns in greater detail.

5. Review the list of Legislators to Governor Patrick

This list was distributed to make sure the information was correct.

6. Select 8-10 Representatives to meet with Daniel O'Connell, Secretary of the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development on August 27th at 9:00 AM at the McCormack Building, Boston, MA

Mr. Hurd said that Secretary O'Connell requested that the meeting be kept small and manageable and that all 16 towns do not need to go. Ms. Yeatts wanted to come up with a list by tonight. It was decided that the following members would attend: Ken Tavares, Mike O'Donnell, Sandra MacFarlane, Joe Freitas, possibly, Matt Albanese, most likely, Jim Hadfield of SRPEDD, Pat Ciaramella of OCPC, Chawner Hurd, and Nancy Yeatts. There may be

additional members that were not attending tonight's meeting. Mr. Maksy thanked SRPEDD for all the work they put in on this.

7. Discuss Kingston's recommendation for Special Counsel

Ms MacFarlane said, if as we go on with the regional group and hit road blocks that we cannot handle, this is a list of attorneys that might be able to help the group if needed.

8. Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 12th at 7:00 PM at the Lakeville Library.

The representatives from the casino meeting left the meeting at 9:45 PM and the Selectmen continued their meeting.

9. Other Business

William Markson's Earth Removal Permit

After a brief discussion regarding the conditions for William Markson's Earth Removal Permit, the Board agreed to remove Condition #12, amend condition #14 to include the date of the approved plan, September 9, 2005, and amend Condition #19 to include a \$50,000.00 bond to insure that the excavation site is left in a condition satisfactory to the Board.

Local Casino Forum

The Board reviewed Frank Dunphy's (casinofacts.org) request to speak at the Local Casino Forum scheduled for August 13, 2007. It was agreed that Mr. Dunphy was welcome to attend our meeting, but he should pursue his own venue for a meeting.

At 9:50 PM, upon a motion made by Selectman Evirs and seconded by Selectman Maksy, the Board unanimously

VOTED: To enter Executive Session and not return to Open Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation and potential litigation.

Polled vote: Selectman Evirs—Aye, Selectman Yeatts—Aye, and Selectman Maksy—Aye.