

TOWN OF LAKEVILLE
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2015 - 6:30 PM

On February 12, 2015, the Board of Selectmen held a meeting at 6:30 PM at the Town Office Building in Lakeville. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Powderly at 6:33 PM. Selectmen present were: Selectman Powderly, Selectman Burke and Selectman Hollenbeck. Also present were: Rita Garbitt, Town Administrator, Tracie Craig, Executive Assistant and Christine Weston, Recording Secretary. Matthew Ferreira of The Middleborough Gazette was recording the meeting along with LakeCam.

Review and discuss the letter received from Superintendent Medeiros

Chairman Powderly stated that Ms. Garbitt had received a letter from the Superintendent of Schools sometime during the first week of February regarding the FY15 Assessments. The letter was also sent to John Healy, Freetown Town Administrator, however the letter was not received by either Town. On February 5, 2015, Richard Medeiros sent another correspondence to both Town Administrators as a follow-up. The letter was read into the record.

Chairman Powderly then addressed an article on transportation cuts that had been in the Standard Times on February 7, 2015, which spoke about the above matter and the fact that the Towns had not responded. Selectman Burke inquired why it is so critical that the Region know what the Town plans on doing. They had complete assurance at Town Meeting that the Town would make good on the cuts if they happened. Selectman Hollenbeck noted that the initial letter does not call for a response in the first place. Chairman Powderly agreed, but added that the Regional School Committee had discussed the matter at their previous meeting and had instructed the Superintendent to send a letter to the Towns. Selectman Hollenbeck added that the Board had communicated to them about waiting until June, since that is when the Regional Schools would receive their second check. This should not impact decisions for the FY16 budget, since it will be June, well after when the budget should be set for FY16. A letter has been sent to the Attorney General's Office, signed by 56 representatives, challenging the fact that the Regional 9C cuts fall under the Governor's jurisdiction. Selectmen Hollenbeck has spoken to Representative Orrall about the matter, but it is too soon to tell what will happen. We said we would bring it back to Town Meeting.

Chairman Powderly stated that the Town put money into a Stabilization Fund and at Town Meeting. The Board will ask the voters to reallocate it at the next Town Meeting. Selectman Hollenbeck added that the matter had been brought up during a Regional Finance Subcommittee Meeting, where it was explained that they would give the money from the lawsuit back to Lakeville, and she thinks that is what is complicating the issue. She stated that she could not speak for the Board, but these two (2) issues should not be mixed together. Chairman Powderly stated that he didn't understand why they want to get into this, before they know what the outcome will be. The Board can respond to them in a letter, or can invite them to a Selectmen's Meeting to discuss the matter. If they want a formal answer verbally, they need to come to a Selectmen's Meeting. If there is a shortfall in liability, we can ask the taxpayers to take it out of Stabilization and pay them. Selectman Burke noted that the Regional School Committee has no authority to specify that any Town money come from the Stabilization Fund. It will happen from

us whether or not those cuts occur. He did not feel that there is any dialogue that should take place until there is a 9C cut. It is up to the Town, so it is a moot point to discuss it. It will either happen or it won't. Selectman Hollenbeck stated that if they would like to discuss the matter further, the Board could invite them to a meeting. Selectman Burke suggested that both a letter be sent to them and an invitation to attend a Selectmen's Meeting to discuss the matter. The Board should be showing that it is trying to promote communication. Since people are concerned about the 9c cuts, they should be educated on what it means.

Chairman Powderly said he wanted to go on the record that the Board had not received the initial letter. Transportation should never be combined in the Region's budget, since the Town has been overpaying for it for a long time. This has been a miscommunication, since the Board did not get the first letter. Selectman Hollenbeck provided a brief update from the Regional Finance Subcommittee Meeting that took place last night. Ms. Garbitt explained that the Town breaks down the warrant article into excluded debt, debt, transportation and operating budget. Does the Board not want to put the transportation figure on each month? Chairman Powderly stated that the Town will not issue the final transportation check until the final number is known. Selectman Hollenbeck stated that the Town has the ability to look at it with the final check. This year there is a potential for a 9C cut. The question will always be what the actual number is versus the cherry sheet number, so maybe it should be finalized the following year to either make up the difference or change. Ms. Garbitt stated that the Town needs to know the figure by Town Meeting, not June 30th. Selectman Hollenbeck noted that the actual checks have been higher than the Cherry Sheet figures historically.

Chairman Powderly suggested finding out from Fred Baker when they pay the transportation. Selectman Hollenbeck suggested to look at what the Regional Agreement has in it regarding this. Chairman Powderly stated that the Town should pay the proper amount when the actual amount is known. He will draft a letter to the Superintendent and Regional School Committee about the FY15 Transportation Assessment. They will also be invited to the March 9, 2015 Selectmen's Meeting. Chairman Powderly inquired if maybe there is a way to authorize the transfer of the funds so that there does not have to be a Special Town Meeting. Selectman Hollenbeck suggested to set that up in a separate warrant article. Selectman Burke recommended that Town Counsel be communicated with about the different options.

New Business

Selectman Hollenbeck then informed the Board about the letter that the Board had received in an email. She had spoken with the Superintendent of Schools and David Goodfellow last night about the rights of the Town to have a representative sit in during negotiations. The Regional School Committee did not take a formal vote to allow Lakeville to have a representative sit at the bargaining table. The Board is able to participate and vote in Executive Session when the issue is at hand. Chairman Powderly stated that past practice allows the Town to sit in during negotiations. Selectman Hollenbeck stated that the Superintendent has said that as well. However, the Regional School Committee has taken the position that the Selectmen's representative can only be present during Executive Session. It is worth looking into what the Board's rights are. Ms. Garbitt will check with Town Counsel. Education Reform allows a Selectman to attend negotiations. It was thought that also included the strategy sessions, not just

the regular School Committee Meetings. Chairman Powderly suggested that having a representative from the Board of Selectmen on the Negotiating Committee be added to the letter.

Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Selectman Burke; seconded by Selectman Hollenbeck it was:

VOTED: To adjourn the Selectmen's Meeting at 7:44 PM.
Unanimous in favor .

List of Documents provided at February 12, 2015 Selectmen's Meeting

1. Letter dated January 12, 2015 from Freetown-Lakeville Regional School District
2. Email dated February 5, 2015 from Superintendent Richard Medeiros
3. Draft letter to Superintendent Richard Medeiros dated February 10, 2015 from the Lakeville Board of Selectmen