

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

February 23, 2015

should not be overlooked or minimized. The connectivity issue was expected since we're not looking for a campus setting, but one connected building.

Hal Schwartz, District 7 said that although he supports what Mr. Bateson has proposed he would like to ask bond counsel if the RTM can do it.

Frank Cleary, Pullman Comley bond counsel did not think it could be increased under the statute.

Mr. Bateson said at the BOF meeting Mr. Cleary said it is a major school project with a building committee and seeking State reimbursement.

Mr. Cleary indicated he needed more time to analyze the resolution and the statute which is not frequently used.

Mr. Schwartz asked if this action would jeopardize the bonding or would it go back to the BOS & BOF.

Ms. Iacono noted that the original bond resolution included the walkway.

Mr. Bateson said the current project is not what the RTM had envisioned. Over \$4.1 million is a major building project.

Frank Cleary said he was not comfortable issuing a definitive opinion since this statute has not been used much before.

First Selectman Tetreau suggested since we do not have a definitive opinion and don't want to jeopardize the entire \$340,000 going back to the Boards of Selectmen and Finance within 30 days for the funding for the connector. He also indicated that the BOE included a cost component for this in their capital nonrecurring request.

WITHDRAWAL OF MOTION: Mr. Bateson withdrew the motion to increase the bond resolution by \$120,000, duly seconded. He does not want to jeopardize the funding and hoped the BOS & BOF would look favorably on the funding request for the covered connector.

Peter Ambrose, District 2 said he concurred with Mr. Bateson and requested an opinion from Pullman Comley regarding C.G.S. 7-370c does this Body have the authority to increase a bond resolution or not.

SENSE OF THE BODY: Ed Bateson and Hal Schwartz proposed a sense of the body resolution indicating support for \$120,000 for an enclosed walkway at Osborn Hill School subsequent to the approval of the Boards of Selectmen and Finance.

Bill Gerber, District 4 asked if the \$340,000 is spoken for or is it contingency or if it can be done for \$120,000.

First Selectman Tetreau indicated that the Building Committee needs to consider it.

VOTE: The Sense of the Body resolution was approved by voice vote with 40 in favor and 1 abstention (Donovan).

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VOTE: The resolution appropriating \$340,633 for Osborn Hill Elementary School and authorizing the issuance of bonds for financing same was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 5 ON CALL: TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER: "RESOLVED, THAT THE BOND RESOLUTION ENTITLED, 'RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION OF THIRTY FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$35,000,000) TO REFUND CERTAIN OF THE TOWN'S OUTSTANDING BONDS AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF REFUNDING BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION,' BE, AND HEREBY IS, APPROVED."

Ed Bateson, District 3 moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

Tom McCarthy, District 8 noted that this is a departure from protocol and asked what precipitated this change.

Bob Mayer, CFO, said he discussed it with the Town's financial advisor. He had missed the deadline for the item to appear on the BOS agenda so he took it to the BOS & BOF for informational purposes only and to the RTM where the authority rests.

Mr. McCarthy indicated that although he is not opposed to this, he feels the financial acumen rests with the BOF not the legislative body.

John Donovan, District 1 asked how it went to the BOF for information only. Mr. Mayer said neither the BOS nor the BOF need to vote only the RTM.

First Selectman Tetreau explained it is a new process in that the timing was urgent because of the March refinancing window. Originally, the savings was estimated at \$1.6 million, but with the current rate now the savings is estimated at \$1.2 million.

Josh Garskof, District 5 asked if procedurally there was a way to streamline the approval process. Mr. Tetreau said a few years ago we asked about a blanket approval for a high number, but the boards were not comfortable. We refinance every few years.

Mr. Garskof said that if there were a procedure in place he would feel comfortable if we gave pre-approval for a high number.

Michael Herley, District 1 asked if we went back to past practice with BOS & BOF approval wouldn't the state statute trump the vote technically.

First Selectman Tetreau said the RTM can set the criteria to require the BOS & BOF to vote on refinancing.

Ed Bateson said he appreciated the first selectman's offer as he likes the input of the other boards. A lot has changed with the authority of the BOF and RTM. The BOF asked bond counsel for an opinion of authority, and he would like the RTM copied on that opinion.

Moderator Iacono said she will ask the administration to do that.

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VOTE: The bond resolution authorizing the appropriation of \$35,000,000 to refund certain of the Town's outstanding bonds and authorizing the issuance of refunding bonds to finance such appropriation was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 6 ON CALL: TO CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT TO §95-15.4 OF THE TOWN CODE, TAX RELIEF PROGRAM TAX REVIEW COMMITTEE: "AT ITS FIRST REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING IN JANUARY ~~2014~~ **2016**, THE REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING SHALL CONVENE A SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO REVIEW ARTICLE III OF CHAPTER 95, TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED HOMEOWNERS."

VOTE: The amendment was approved by unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Laurene O'Brien, District 5 asked the Body to communicate to their constituents how important it is for them to know their responsibilities regarding maintaining and shoveling their sidewalks since two people have been injured due to the hazardous conditions because of snow and ice.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth P. Browne, CMC, MCTC
Town Clerk