



TOWN of THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

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Linda Paradise
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Special Selectmen's Meeting
Tuesday, July 9, 2019 9:30 a.m.
Minutes

1. Call to Order

First Selectman Ken Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Ken Beausoleil
Amy St Onge
Steve Herbert

Staff Present: Orla McKiernan-Raftery, Finance Director
Renee Waldron, Town Clerk

Member of the Public: Dick Trudeau

2. Possible Discussion and Action on Legal Notice of Town Meeting and Referendum

The Board of Finance made a \$60,000 cut to the overall FY 2019-20 budget. \$30,000 was taken from the Town Budget in the paving line. \$30,000 was taken from the School Budget.

The Board of Finance also asked that the Homeland Security School Safety Grant also be put back out to Referendum.

The Board of Selectmen discussed the possible options:

- A. Have both the Budget and School Security questions go to Town Meeting and be moved to Referendum
- B. Have the Budget go to Town Meeting only for vote and the School Security question go to Town Meeting and be moved to Referendum.
- C. Have the Budget and School Security go to two separate Town Meetings and be moved to vote at two separate Referendums. School Security Town Meeting would take place July 17 and School Security Referendum would be July 24. The Budget Town Meeting and Referendum would be held in August on dates to be determined.

A. St. Onge asked O. McKiernan-Raftery if she is comfortable that we would be financially secure to wait until August for the Budget Referendum to which she replied that she is comfortable with that as long as we don't go below the two million mark. There are some small amounts of income expected.

A. St. Onge asked if we can hold one Town Meeting for both items with two separate referendum dates. Renee Waldron answered that this isn't possible due to the date parameters set by the state.

S. Herbert asked if there is some confusion about the security question in people's minds.

D. Trudeau expressed his feeling that there is a lack of communication. He feels that the budgets aren't being explained and marketed. He likes the idea of separating the two items (budget and security). He suggested providing a more detailed explanation of the security question. He suggested sending a press release to the Villager newspaper.

It was suggested that the school put together information before next week's Town meeting explaining the school security grant. Information may be included giving info and encouraging people to vote. It cannot tell them how to vote. The school could provide handouts for the meeting and be present to answer questions. The fact that this is not money on top of the school budget should be included. The information can also be shared on social media and the website.

S. Herbert spoke to the fact that we hold open meetings and budget workshops which are public meetings where all are welcome but they aren't well attended. People have the ability to get the information but they're not taking advantage of it.

S. Herbert asked how many people we're reaching on social media. R. Waldron explained that our Social Media intern, who is away at this time, has been working on pulling these numbers together for us.

Motion by K. Beausoleil, seconded by S. Herbert to schedule the Town Meeting and Referendum for July 17 and July 24, 2019 for the Homeland Security School Safety Grant as presented in the legal notice. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to Post Information at the Transfer Station – Run for Ryan Memorial Race/Walk
Discussion took place on this topic. As the Town does not have a policy in place, the request will be denied at this time. We will look to develop a policy for future requests.

Motion by S. Herbert, seconded by A. St Onge to decline the request while we develop a policy for future requests. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Adjourn

Motion by A. St. Onge, seconded by S. Herbert to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.