

Special Town Meeting Minutes
SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

Town Moderator Steve Doherty, called the Special Town Meeting to order on September 23, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium, 298 Central Street, Saugus, MA with 36 + members present. A quorum was met.

Joyce Rodenhiser from Precinct 1 and Peter Rossetti from Precinct 2 were appointed and sworn in as tellers at 7:32 p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance

Town Clerk, Ellen Schena, called the roll at 7:33 p.m.

Town Meeting Member name	Pct	Present/ Absent	Town Meeting Member name	Pct	Present/ Absent	Town Meeting Member name	Pct	Present/ Absent
Bartolo, J.	6	P	Falasca, T.	2	P	Politano, K.	7	A
Brazis, K.	5	P	Fisher, R.	9	P	Prizio,P	7	A
Brown, W.	6	P	Fowler, J	8	P	Rando, P.	3	P
Camuso, R	2	P	Goodwin, P.	5	A	Rodenhiser, J.	1	P
Canterbury, M.	6	P	Groark, L	5	A	Rossetti, P.	2	P
Cicolini, J.	8	P	Horlick, S.	8	P	Serino, M.	10	P
Coburn, J.	10	A	Jones, C.	1	A	Spencer, B.	5	P
Connors, A	3	P	Kelly, D.	9	P	Stewart, W.	3	A
Costello, M.	10	A	Lavoie, R.	7	P	Sweezey, S.	2	P
Cottam, J	9	A	Leuci, W.	4	A	Traverse, T.	8	P
Currie, K	6	P	Lopresti, A.	8	P	Thompson, R.	3	P
Devlin, F.A.	1	P	Marchand, W.	6	P	Wallace, R.	5	P
DiGirolamo, T	10	A	McCabe, K.	4	P	Whitcomb, M	4	P
DiNardo, A.	4	P	McCarthy, S.	7	A	Whyte, C.	9	A
Divirgilio, S	10	P	Moreschi, C.	2	P	Witten, R.	1	P
Doherty, S	4	P	Nickolas, G.	3	P	Worthley, J.	9	P
Dunn, S.	1	P	Paolini, M.	7	P			

Town Moderator read those names that correspondence that they were unable to attend: Tanya DiGirolamo, Chris Jones, Pam Goodwin, Bill Leuci, Martin Costello, Laura Groark and Patricia Prizio.

Making the Motion this Evening: Kevin Currie Precinct 6

Acceptance of the Minutes

Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen met today under the 48 hour rule for a recommendation. If we vote not to accept the recommendation they we will need to come back next week and tonight work on the other articles tonight.

Vote on Article 2 needs a 2/3rd majority to accept Finance Committees recommendation since there was not the 48 hours – (rule).

Motion to accept the recommendation.

Seconded at 7:39pm

Tellers take a hand count:

Left: in favor: 15 opposed: 0
Right: in favor: 17 opposed: 0
Total: 34

Motion has passed at 7:40pm

Reports of Committee: Finance Committee Report
Kenneth DePatto, Chairman Finance Committee speaks at 7: 40pm. There are 4 financial articles tonight: Articles 2, 3 and 4 are for SCTV and Article 5 is on failing systems at Town Hall and Public Safety Building. Article 2 was originally tabled because they needed to review the 2nd version of the lease. The finance committee felt more comfortable with the BOS reviewing the lease since they are the overseers of the funds. Finance Committee requests you support all their recommendations.

No other committees.

Motion to take Article 5 out of order at 7:45pm

Seconded at: 7:45pm

Unanimous voice vote yes at 7:45pm

As a courtesy to the Finance Committee, Mr. Kevin Currie Precinct 6 moves Article 5 to the floor for consideration as

recommended.

Seconded at 7:48.p.m.

Article as written:

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for replacing air conditioning units at the Public Safety Building and the Town Hall, including the payment of costs incidental or related thereto; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing or otherwise; or to take any other action relative thereto. (Town Manager)

Any Discussion: None

Article as voted: Voted that the sum of \$335,000.00 is appropriated for replacing HVAC units and controls at the Public Safety Building and the Town Hall, including the payment of costs incidental or related thereto; that to meet this appropriation (i) \$6,588.76 is hereby transferred from Fund Balance Reserved for Capital Projects, representing a portion of premium paid to the Town upon the sale of bonds issued, (ii) \$78,003.07 is hereby transferred from surplus funds borrowed to pay costs of Fire Alarm System and Capital Equipment pursuant to a vote of the Town adopted under Article 8 of the Warrant for the May 2006 Town Meeting, which projects are complete and no liability remains therefor, and (iii) \$72,182.40 is hereby transferred from surplus funds borrowed to pay costs of Town Clerk Voting Equipment pursuant to a vote of the Town adopted under Article 23 of the Warrant for the May 2016 Town Meeting, which project is complete and no liability remains therefor, and (iii) the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow \$177,225.77 under G.L. c.44, §7(1) or any other enabling authority; and that the Town Manager is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Unanimous voice vote Yes at 7:48pm.

Maureen Whitcomb Precinct 4 arrived to meeting.

As a courtesy to the Finance Committee, Mr. Kevin Currie Precinct 6 moves Article 2 to the floor for consideration as recommended at 7:49pm.

Seconded at 7:50pm

Article as written:

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$550,000.00 from the PEG Access Enterprise Fund for the purpose of construction of a PEG Access studio/facility in Saugus and costs related thereto. Said funds to be distributed under the authority and direction of the Board of Selectmen as they see fit pursuant to the current Cable Television Renewal License Agreement and the current agreement between the Town and its designee a PEG access corporation. The source of funding will be the funds received under the current Cable Television Renewal License Agreement and held in the PEG Access Enterprise Fund. (Saugus Community Television, Inc.)

Al DiNardo Precinct 4 has some handouts for the tellers and speaks at 7:50pm. He is the President of SCTV. This article is funding \$550,000.00 is non- tax payer money. Need to build a new studio since the old one is in the high school. Proposal is to move the studio to 30 Main Street the Historical Society and is a non-profit like SCTV.

Any objections to the architect for SCTV giving presentation. Seeing None.

Beth McDougal the Architect speaks at 7:56pm – slide show presentation. Begins at 7:56pm.

William Brown Precinct 6 speaks at 8:00pm having some concerns. First concern is he doesn't believe this body has the authority for a 501C. He would like an opinion from Town Counsel on this matter. If he doesn't get an answer he would like to make motion to refer back to the maker.

Town Counsel John Vasapolli speaks at 8:04pm stating under MGL Chapter 44 Section 53 allowing to start an enterprise account for Cable Enterprise Fund. At the past Annual Town Meeting it was voted to stabilize the SCTV has an Enterprise Fund. Under the agreement the money is appropriated into the enterprise account and approved by the BOS.

Al DiNardo Precinct 4 speaks at 8:06pm not in favor of this going back to the maker. They are just following the law.

Bill Brown Precinct 6 speaks at 8:08pm withdrawing his motion to refer back to the maker. Wants to know, going forward will this be part of other town meetings because of the nature of the appropriations. This is something new for Town Meeting and doesn't know the ground rules but is uncomfortable but Town Counsel is okay.

Bill Marchard precinct 6 arrived in at 8:08pm

Al DiNardo Precinct 4 speaks at 8:09pm on the other articles that will come forward tonight. He speaks for the Board of Directors of SCTV.

John Vasapolli speaks at 8:10pm about other Enterprise Funds in the town and in the future they will come forward with their budgets and just like them it will come to Town Meeting to approve the appropriations.

Ken DePatto Speaks at 8:12pm on budgeting for this new enterprise fund. It is a learning curve for Finance Committee and

Town Meeting. All enterprise funds have to go through the Finance Committee for a recommendation and then through Town Meeting for appropriation.

Steve DiVirglio Precinct 10 speaks at 8:14pm about watching Finance Committee meeting regarding the Enterprise Funds. The agreement with the Town must make compliant with all State and Local regulations. He asks the Board of Trustees of SCTV if they are in compliance with the Department of Revenue.

Al DiNardo Precinct 4 speaks at 8:18pm states their Attorney was at the Finance Committee meeting. Addresses that SCTV has been under 3 different corporations so there has been a lot of turmoil and litigation. Please support the measure.

Steve DiVigilio Precinct 10 speaks at 8:20pm about the change in management but doesn't see a change in one corporation in all these filing.

Article as Voted: Voted to recommend the appropriation of \$550,000.00 from the PEG Access Enterprise Fund for the purpose of construction of a PEG Access studio/facility in Saugus and costs related thereto. Said funds to be distributed under the authority and direction of the Board of Selectmen as they see fit pursuant to the current Cable Television Renewal License Agreement and the current agreement between the Town and its designee a PEG access corporation. The source of funding will be the funds received under the current Cable Television Renewal License Agreement and held in the PEG Access Enterprise Fund.

Call for the question as recommended by the Finance Committee at 8:22pm

Hand Count:

Left: in favor: 15 opposed: 2

Right: in favor: 16 opposed: 2

Total: in favor: 31 and opposed: 4

Article 2 passes by majority hand count vote at 8:23pm.

As a courtesy to the Finance Committee, Mr. Kevin Currie Precinct 6 moves Article 3 to the floor for consideration as recommended at 8:24pm.

Seconded: 8:24pm.

Article as written:

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$275,000.00 from the PEG Access Enterprise Fund for the purpose of capital equipment purchases of studio and facility equipment of the PEG Access studio/facility in Saugus and costs related thereto. Said funds to be distributed under the authority and direction of the Board of Selectmen as they see fit pursuant to the current Cable Television Renewal License Agreement and the current agreement between the Town and its designee a PEG access corporation. The source of funding will be the funds received under the current Cable Television Renewal License Agreement and held in the PEG Access Enterprise Fund. (Saugus Community Television, Inc.)

Al DiNardo Precinct 4 speaks at 8:24pm about this article on the electronics portion of the money. Now that Town Meeting has given SCTV the green lot to move.

Any objection to Bryan Nadeau executive director of SCTV speaking: None

Bryan Nadeau, Executive Director of SCTV speaks at 8:26pm on all the new equipment that will be purchased and why for the new facility. He has upgraded all the field equipment and computers since he knew that the high school would be moving at some point. They cannot take anything within the studio since it was all custom made for that present high school location. Please vote in favor of these articles.

Any more discussion: None

Article as Voted: Voted to recommend the appropriation of \$275,000.00 from the PEG Access Enterprise Fund for the purpose of capital equipment purchases of studio and facility equipment of the PEG Access studio/facility in Saugus and costs related thereto. Said funds to be distributed under the authority and direction of the Board of Selectmen as they see fit pursuant to the current Cable Television Renewal License Agreement and the current agreement between the Town and its designee a PEG access corporation. The source of funding will be the funds received under the current Cable Television Renewal License Agreement and held in the PEG Access Enterprise Fund.

Call for the question at 8:39pm

Article 3 has passed with majority voice vote Yes with 2 Nays (Steve Divigilio and Bill Brown) at 8:40pm

As a courtesy to the Finance Committee, Mr. Kevin Currie Precinct 6 moves Article 4 to the floor for consideration as recommended at 8:41pm.

Seconded: 8:41pm.

Article as written:

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$215,088.00 from the PEG Access Enterprise Fund for the purpose of funding the operating budget of the PEG Access studio/facility in Saugus for the period of January 1, 2020

through June 30, 2020. Said funds to be distributed under the authority and direction of the Board of Selectmen as they see fit pursuant to the current Cable Television Renewal License Agreement and the current agreement between the Town and its designee a PEG access corporation. The source of funding will be the funds received under the current Cable Television Renewal License Agreement and held in the PEG Access Enterprise Fund. (Saugus Community Television, Inc.)

Al DiNardo Precinct 4 speaks at 8:41pm concerning this is an operating article. All this is a move on an accounting schedule. Their budget is a Calendar Year but now as an enterprise fund they will move to a Fiscal Year. Come spring will move to the new budget calendar. This is a 6 month gap in budget and not coming out of the reserve money.

Bill Brown Precinct 6 speaks at 8:43pm stating this article makes no sense on what this \$250,000.00 is for and have no paper work on appropriating this money. No documentation.

Steve DiViglio Precinct 10 speaks at 8:45pm will the finance committee and Town Meeting will get a future budge?.

Al DiNardo Precinct 4 speaks at 8:46pm on the Board of Trustees duties. Will have a full budget next year, this is from the Board of Selectmen.

Call for the question at 8:48pm

Article as Voted: Voted to recommend the appropriation of \$215,088.00 from the PEG Access Enterprise Fund for the purpose of funding the operating budget of the PEG Access studio/facility in Saugus for the period of January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020. Said funds to be distributed under the authority and direction of the Board of Selectmen as they see fit pursuant to the current Cable Television Renewal License Agreement and the current agreement between the Town and its designee a PEG access corporation. The source of funding will be the funds received under the current Cable Television Renewal License Agreement and held in the PEG Access Enterprise Fund.

Article 4 has passed with majority voice vote Yes with 1 No from Bill Brown and 1 Abstain from Steve DiViglio at 8:49pm

Moderator asks for a motion to adjourn the 2019 Special Town Meeting on June 24, 2019 sine die.
Motion called for an Adjournment.

Seconded at 8:49 p.m.

Unanimous voice vote at 8:50p.m. To adjourn sine die.

Respectfully submitted

Ellen Joyce Schena
Town Clerk