

Special Town Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2021


Town Clerk, Ellen J. Schena, called the Special Town Meeting to order at 7:30pm VIA ZOOM
Meeting ID: 833 3392 9164 Password: 173909

NO Tellers

Pledge of Alliance at 7:31pm

Making the Motion this Evening: Robert Strasnick Precinct 9

Roll Call at 7:32pm

	Town Meeting		Present		Town Meeting		Present		Town Meeting		Present	
	Member name	Pct	/Absent		Member name	Pct	/Absent		Member name	Pct	/Absent	
	Arone, A.	1	P		Hickman, J.	5	P		Paolini, M.	7	P	
	Bartolo, J.	6	P		Jones, C.	1	P		Riley, C.	2	P	
	Bell, M.	1	P		Kahn, J.	8	A		Ring, D.	10	P	
	Berube, K.	9	P		Kelly, D.	9	P		Rosetti, Jr., P.	2	P	
	Brown, W.	6	P		Kranich Jr., W.	8	A		Schena, D.	3	P	
	Camuso Sr., R.	2	P		LeBrasseur, E.	6	P		Scuzzarella, C.	10	P	
	Chipouras, J.	7	P		Leuci, W.	4	P		Smith, R.	3	P	
	Connors, Jr., A.	3	P		Long, R.	9	P		Spencer, B.	5	P	
	Costello, M.	10	P		Lopresti, A.	8	P		Strasnick, R.	9	P	
	Cross III, W.	8	P		Manoogian Sr, P.	10	P		Tesora, A.	3	P	
	Currie, K.	6	P		McCarthy, S.	7	P		Thompson, R.	3	P	
	D'Anna, S.	7	A		Migliore, M.	5	A		Traverse, T.	8	P	
	Davis, G.	4	P		Moreschi, C.	2	P		Vecchione IV	2	P	
	Delios, P.	10	P		Northrup, R.	4	P		Wallace, R.	5	P	
	Doherty, S.	4	P		Palleschi, R.	7	P		Whitcomb, M.	4	P	
	Dunn, S.	1	P		Paloma, A.	1	P		Worthley, J.	9	P	
	Goodwin, P.	5	A		Panico, A.	6	P		Total Present=	45		
	Town Meeting:								Absent count=	5		
					Date: 12/16/2021							

Attendance Count: 45

The election of the Town Moderator will be the first order of business this evening. Please note when making a nomination and second because we are on ZOOM, I would like you to state your name and precinct for the record.

At this time, I will entertain a motion for a nomination of the Town Moderator: Anthony Arone
Precinct 1 at 7:36pm nominates Steve Doherty Precinct 4.

Seconded by Michael Paolini Precinct 7 at 7:37pm

Peter Manoogian Precinct 10 closes nomination at 7:37pm

Any other Nominations for Town Moderator? Hearing none

Unanimous Voice vote for Steve Doherty Precinct 4 as Town Moderator at 7:38pm

Town Moderator accepts nomination and takes over the meeting at 7:38pm

Minutes accepted at 7:38pm

Town Moderator gives Town Meeting Instructions at 7:39pm

Vote to continue the meeting via ZOOM

Unanimous vote yes at 7:40pm

Committee or Commission Reports:

Finance Committee Chairman Ken Depatto speaks at 7:40pm saying the Finance Committee makes recommendation on 4 Financial Articles. Article 2 is to rescind using the Stabilization Fund and should use certified free cash, with expectations that Town Meeting would put back if free cash was available. Please support all the recommendations that are sound.

Joe Vecchione Precinct 2 on the Cliffondale Committee states they will have a full report for the next meeting.

No other committees to report

As a courtesy to the Finance Committee, Robert Strasnick, Precinct 9 moves Article 2 for consideration:

Seconded at 7:45pm

Article as Written:

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to rescind the vote under Article 2 of the 2021 Annual Town Meeting to transfer an amount not to exceed \$1,400,000.00 from the Stabilization Fund as a funding source for Town charges for the ensuing Fiscal Year 2022 and appropriate from Free Cash an amount not to exceed \$1,400,000.00 as a funding source for Town charges for Fiscal Year 2022. (Town Manager)

Peter Manoogian Precinct 10 has questions for the Town Manager on Article 2.

Scott Crabtree, Town Manager speaks at 7:45pm, about pledging Stabilization money to our budget because of the pandemic and unknowns; how business and our government with regards to revenues. We are using one-time money to balance the budget and see where we are in the next year or 2. There is a balance of \$3.2M that will be left, where the town will be with the pandemic and unforeseen situations. We are \$1.4M out of balance.

Bob Palleschi Precinct 7 speaks at 7:52pm asking the Manager if he foresees any need for the Stabilization Fund.

Scott Crabtree, Town Manager answers that they don't foresee anything at this point. But there are unpredictability's. The source of funding that will be used is free cash for snow and ice before the year end.

Bob Palleschi Precinct 7 asks about snow and ice budget.

Scott Crabtree Town Manager answers at 7:55pm why the budget is small because they would have to maintain that money each year with regards to legalities.

Robert Long, Precinct 9 speaks at 7:56pm about Free Cash.

Scott Crabtree Town Manager answers.

Robert Long, Precinct 9 asks about where the free cash originates from? The next town meeting has the Manager of the Chairman of the Finance Committee explain where the free cash money comes from?

Scott Crabtree, Town Manager answers at 7:58pm, \$2.6M is carry over free cash designated from last year. (estimation). Another category of expenditures and the DOR reduces free cash from collectables north of \$1M per year.

Robert Long, Precinct 9 asks if the DOR asks about the origin of the free cash.

Scott Crabtree, Town manager says no.

No further discussion

Article 2 as Voted: Voted to recommend to rescind the vote under Article 2 of the 2021 Annual Town Meeting to transfer an amount not to exceed \$1,400,000.00 from the Stabilization Fund as a funding source for Town charges for the ensuing Fiscal Year 2022 and appropriate from July 1, 2021 certified free cash an amount not to exceed \$1,400,000.00 as a funding source for Town charges for Fiscal Year 2022.

2 Votes for Town Meeting:

Voice vote to rescind the vote of article 21 at the Annual Town Meeting: Unanimous Voice vote Yes at 8:02pm

Unanimous voice votes Yes at 8:02pm to accepted the Finance Committees Recommendation.

As a courtesy to the Finance Committee, Robert Strasnick, Precinct 9 moves Article 3 for consideration:

Seconded at 8:03pm

Article as Written:

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to make supplementary appropriations to be used in conjunction with funds appropriated under Article 2 of the 2021 Annual Town Meeting during the current fiscal year, and determine whether the funds shall be provided by transfer from available funds; or to see what other action the Town wants to take in the matter. (Town Manager)

Scott Crabtree, Town Manager speaks at 8:04pm this is the dam at the Golden Hills that the State required us to take action to elevated any other environment impacts in the area. This grant is a matching grant from the State. The State puts up 75% and the Town of Saugus is required to put 25%. This was prior to the supply chain issues so the costs did increase.

Martin Costello, Precinct 10 asks at 8:06pm about supply chain issues are we going to get other surprises.

Scott Crabtree, Town Manager answers about what he knows about supply chain issues but the Grant is what it is and the town increased 15% just in case of more surprises.

Bill Brown, Precinct 6 asks at 8:09pm about the math on these estimations.

Scott Crabtree, Town Manager answers at total \$349,278,00.00 costs the State committed \$261,559. Town is \$87,000 in change and DPW Director advises that we increase because of the supply chain issues and the raising costs.

No other discussion

Article 3 as Voted: Voted to recommend the Town make supplementary appropriations in the amount of \$200,000.00 to be used in conjunction with the money appropriated under Article 2 of the 2021 Annual Town Meeting during the current fiscal year. The source of funding is \$200,000.00 from the July 1, 2021 certified free cash.

Unanimous voice votes Yes at 8:11pm:

As a courtesy to the Finance Committee, Robert Strasnick, Precinct 9 moves Article 4 for consideration:

Seconded at 8:12pm

Article as Written:

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of funding unpaid bills of a prior fiscal year. (Town Manager)

No Discussion

Article 4 as Voted: Voted to recommend the Town appropriate the sum of \$10,815.58 for the payment of unpaid bills of the prior fiscal year. The source of funding is \$10,815.58 from Fiscal Year 2021 Carryover in the General Fund.

Unanimous voice votes Yes at 8:13pm:

As a courtesy to the Finance Committee, Robert Strasnick, Precinct 9 moves Article 5 for consideration:

Seconded at 8:15pm

Article as Written:

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to make a supplementary appropriation to be used in conjunction with funds appropriated under Article 13 of the June 2020 Annual Town Meeting during the current fiscal year, for the purpose of funding the Agreed Upon Procedures Report on the construction of the PEG Access station. Said funds to be appropriated pursuant to the current Cable Television Renewal License Agreement and the current agreement between the Town and its designee a PEG access corporation. (Town Manager)

Chris Riley Precinct 2 asks at 8:14pm about the \$14,872.00 additional money. Total cost of the audit?

Scott Crabtree, Town Manager answers that this article was put in place for town meeting put money into PEG Access which is in separate account. There were no audits, went out and got solicit quotes to complete the Audit as agreed on the outline. This has nothing to do with the town or the administration. As far as the audit, the Board of Selectmen and the SCTV Board is working on the completed audit.

Peter Mannoogian, Precinct 10 speaks at 8:18pm working with Board of Selectman, Jeff Ciccolini came up with this money amount. Auditing is the best way as a community to be fiscal responsible.

Bob Palleschi, Precinct 7 speaks about the SCTV Enterprise Fund?

Scott Crabtree, Town Manager speaks at 8:21pm about the set-up of SCTV and its monies collected which is put in the Enterprise Fund authorized by the Board of Selectmen and Town Meeting. The Board of Selectmen negotiates the amount.

Debra Panetta, Board of Selectmen speaks at 8:24pm on the monies of SCTV.

Peter Mannoogian, Precinct 10 asks Board of Selectmen Panetta about the audit reports.

Debra Panetta, Board of Selectmen says yes.

Joe Vecchione, Precinct 2 asks about a specific audit.

Town Manager answers at 8:26pm.

No Discussion

Article 5 as Voted: Voted to recommend the Town make a supplementary appropriation in the amount of \$14,872.00 to be used in conjunction with funds appropriated under Article 13 of the June 2020 Annual Town Meeting during the current fiscal year, for the purpose of funding the Agreed Upon Procedures Report on the construction of the PEG Access station. The source of funding is \$14,872.00 from the July 1, 2021 certified retained earnings of the PEG Access Enterprise Fund.

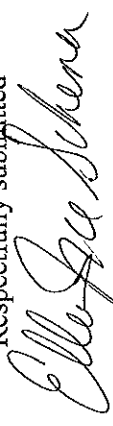
Unanimous voice votes Yes at 8:28pm:

Moderator asks for a motion to adjourn Special Town Meeting at 8:28pm

Seconded at 8:29p.m.

Unanimous voice vote at 8:29p.m. to adjourn sine die.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ellen Joyce Schena".

Ellen Joyce Schena
Saugus Town Clerk

