

Special Town Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2021

Call to Order: at 7:30pm VIA ZOOM Meeting ID: 871 1168 4529 Password: 867735

NO Tellers

Attendance Count: 42 + Moderator; Total: 43

Pledge of Alliance at 7:31pm

Moment of silence for Greg Nickolas and his family at 7:31pm. Phil Rando new precinct 3 member.

Making the Motion this Evening: Andrew Whitcomb Precinct 4

Roll Call at 7:32pm



Town Meeting Member name	Pct	Present / Absent	Town Meeting Member name	Pct	Present / Absent	Town Meeting Member name	Pct	Present / Absent
Arone, A.	1	P	Fowler, J.	8	P	Rando, P.	3	P
Bartolo, J.	6	P	Goodwin, P.	5	P	Riley, C.	2	P
Berube, K.	9	P	Jones, C.	1	P	Ring, D.	10	P
Brown, W.	6	P	Kelly, D.	9	A	Rodenhiser, J.	1	P
Camuso Sr, R.	2	P	Lavoie, R.	7	P	Rossetti Jr, P.	2	P
Chipouras, J.	7	P	Leuci, W.	4	P	Scrivano, M.	6	A
Cicolini, J.	8	A	Long, R.	9	P	Smith, R.	3	P
Connors Jr, A.	3	P	Lopresti, A.	8	P	Spencer, B.	5	P
Costello, M.	10	P	Manoogian Sr, P.	10	P	Stewart, W.	3	P
Cottam, J.	9	A	McCarthy, S.	7	A	Thompson, R.	3	P
Cross III, W.	8	A	Migliore, M.	5	P	Traverse, T.	8	P
Currie, K.	6	P	Mitchell, J.	5	P	Vecchione IV, J.	2	P
Davis, G.	4	P	Moore, W.	2	P	Wallace, R.	5	P
Dellos, P.	10	P	Palleschi, R.	7	P	Whitcomb, A.	4	P
Divigilio, S.	10	A	Paloma, A.	1	P	Whitcomb, M.	4	P
Doherty, S.	4	P	Panico, A.	6	P	Worthley, J.	9	P
Dunn, S.	1	P	Paolini, M.	7	P	Total Present=	43	
Town Meeting:			10/18/2021 ATM			Absent count=	7	
			Date: October 18, 2021 Town Meeting					

Minutes accepted at 7:36pm

Town Moderator instructions at 7:37pm

Vote to continue the meeting via ZOOM

Unanimous vote Yes at 7:38pm

Committee or Commission Reports:

Finance Committee Ken Depatto speaks at 7:38pm saying the Finance Committee met and was against Article 2 because there was no source of funding. The principal amount was only \$23 million and the \$40,636,079.00 debt service schedule. Reason it was to not recommend because there was no source of funding then if we do a debt exclusion and fails; then it would come from the operation budget which would could affect fire, police and school funding. The hope is to get this in front of the people to vote on it and on a debt exclusion to pay for it.

Town Moderator reads Town Counsels opinion on Article at 7:41pm. "Article 2 is a request for the town to appropriate a sum of money for the costs attributed to the construction of the facilities of Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School and is submitted by the Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School District. Under the provisions of MGLA Chapter 71 section 16(d) a regional school district may not incur a debt for constructing a school building without first notifying the Board of Selectmen of each of the towns in the regional school district. Each town may then hold a town meeting for the purpose of expressing disapproval of the amount authorized by the District Committee and the debt shall not be incurred. The vote of the town meeting on this article should be to either approve or disapprove the appropriation. The event the town meeting votes disapproval, under the provision of section 16 (n) of Chapter 71 the matter is submitted to the registered voters of the member town at an election called for the purpose."

No other committees to report.

As a courtesy to the Finance Committee, Andrew Whitcomb Precinct 4 moves Article 2 for consideration:

Seconded at 7:44pm

Article as Written:

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the cost attributed to the construction of facilities of Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School located at 100 Hemlock Road, Wakefield, MA 01880. (Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School District)

Town Manager Scott Crabtree speaks at 7:44pm on Article 2 giving context for town meeting members and the people at home; 5-6 years ago it was an idea and putting a plan together, this is a project needs to happen but this is 3rd of a billion dollar plan. The cost expectation of the construction is going to increase each year to build a new facility. The reality going on is because of these price tags; Malden, Chelsea, Revere and Saugus is more in the range of \$1.6 or \$1.7 million each year. The cost will impact the operation budget for us and probably other communities. This not a Town manager decision this is a town meeting issue. There will be significant impact if having to pay through the operating budget which could cut police and fire. Another thing is the stabilization fund which gives us AA+ bond rating. This is a great school and for our kids, but the process is not allowing us to do what we need to do. If this is approved then town meeting needs to sell it to the citizens of Saugus for a debt override. Reminder 8+ years ago the Town was in financial jeopardy.

Peter Rossetti Jr., Precinct 2 speaks at 7:54pm also representing the Vocational School; has been on the Vocational School Committee since 1983. Speaks on the process of accepting students and hope with the new school can increase Saugus student's enrollment. Introduces Carla Scuzzarella, Principal, Ted Nickoli Clerk of the Works for the project, Kevin Nigro is the Project Manager. Talks about the cost increase of the project. Speaks in favor of this Article.

Carla Scuzzarella, 8 Carr Road, speaks at 8:00pm she is the Principal for Vocational for 6 years. Shows Town Meeting some slides on the project.

Ted Nickoli 821 Broadway, speaks at 8:02pm on the slide presentation on the building itself.

Carla Scuzzarella speaks on the projects on the education plan for the Vocational School at 8:06pm. Will be adding 3 new technical programs to the school. New building with new access road.

Kevin Nigro, 41 Biscayne Ave speaks at 8:11pm he is the Project Manager for the project show the overall project schedule through the presentation slides.

Darren Ring, Precinct 10 speaks at 8:11pm he is a huge advocate for the Vocational School but does not support this unless on a town vote because of this type of money.

Andrew Whitcomb, Precinct 4 speaks at 8:12pm on the value of this presentation and a graduate of the Northeast Vocation. He is in support of this project but agrees with Mr. Ring on the money issues.

Chris Riley, Precinct 2 speaks at 8:14pm not questioning the need for the school but need to discuss the funding. Best source of funding is a debt exclusion for the residences to vote on this. What is the time line on this? When exactly is on decision due?

Carla Scuzzarella speaks at 8:16pm says it is 60 days from school committee decision which is November 8th? The funding from the State of Mass is an additional \$25 million that is due December 31, 2021. The BSBA will extend the end of the year because of the popular vote. The project will loss substantial funding.

Chris Riley, Precinct 2 speaks at 8:18pm on the debt exclusion to the voters. Is there anything to put this to the voters before November 8th?

John Vasapolli, Town Counsel answers at 8:20pm on when you can have an election on a vote to the citizen and have a debt exclusion election.

Town Manager Scott Crabtree asks Town Counsel on any other clock that is running.

John Vasapolli, Town Counsel doesn't know the answer at 8:21pm.

Kevin Nigro answers at 8:22pm on other time line issues.

Town Counsel states there are statutory requirements for a debt exclusion election.

Town Manager answers at 8:24pm that it is not a traditional debt exclusion, because we do not occur the debt.

Peter Rossetti, Precinct 2 speaks at 8:24pm explains about the election process going forward.

Chris Riley, Precinct 2 speaks about a special election authorized by the BOS for a debt exclusion.

Ron Wallace, Precinct 5 speaks at 8:26pm is in favor but the money issue needs to go to voters.

Martin Costello, Precinct 10 asks a question at 8:28pm to Mr. Peter Rossetti if there is a negative vote from the 12 communities will it jeopardizes the money.

Peter Rossetti answers Yes it would and if we put this off it will get more expensive.

Carla Scuzzarella speaks at 8:30pm on the challenges Saugus and the other communities have on this project.

Town Manager speaks at 8:33pm makes clarification on what the grant does to go along the process.

Peter Manooogian, Precinct 10 speaks at 8:34pm on the deadlines. It's pretty clear that Saugus cannot absorb this type of payment without a debt exclusion. Who will advocate for this project to sell to the Town? He agrees with the Town Manager that he doesn't make policy. Wants to continue this conversation in another meeting.

Joe Vecchione IV, Precinct 2, speaks at 8:41pm on the debt to this town. He is weighing the pros and cons on this project.

William Stewart, Precinct 3 speaks at 8:43pm that the new town meeting members should decide or the voters. He is voting against this article and after the town election.

Peter Manooogian, Precinct 10 asks Peter Rossetti on the finance promotions of the financial committee laid out?

Peter Rossetti says he went to the finance committee who told them they shouldn't tell the town on how to do this?

Ken DePatto, Chairman Saugus Finance Committee refutes what Peter just said.

Kevin Nigro speaks on the miscommunication.

Peter Rossetti speaks at 8:48pm on the process until gaining the necessary votes, then inform the committees on what is next to do.

Town Manager speaks at 8:49pm that Town Meeting and the Administration is supportive of this project, but if they have to go to popular vote then need the Vocation School Committee helps sell it to the citizens.

Chris Riley, Precinct 2 speaks at 8:50pm about continuing this town meeting. No one doesn't want this project but maybe putting a short-term committee together to discuss options.

Robert Camuso, Precinct 2 speaks at 8:52pm on Saugus higher percentage on this project.

Bill Brown, Precinct 6 speaks at 8:54pm about only having 2 weeks deadline on this project. Is any other communities struggling with the money issue. This needs to put in front of the voters. Secondary motion on a debt exclusion election.

Town Moderator says this board doesn't do that.

Town Managers, Scott Crabtree answers that other communities have similar issues. There were discussions with state legislatures and the costs. How does Saugus fund this?

Martin Costello, Precinct 10 asks the Town Manager at 8:59pm if we go to a debt exclusion do you see any latitude on any given year?

Town Manager, Scott Crabtree answers at 9:00pm is a difficult question to fully answer.

Peter Delios, Precinct 10 speaks at 9:02pm he is pro education and wonderful for our students. He is in full support of this project but why didn't town meeting get this paper earlier like the summer time?

Bill Leuci, Precinct 4 speaks at 9:06pm and was a former teacher at the Vocational school. Saugus is the 3rd highest of 12 communities. He doesn't like being put in a Yes or No situation at this time.

Chris Riley, Precinct 2 speaks at 9:08pm on how everyone supports it but it's just the money. The cost of this project will move forward with or without Saugus blessing.

Motion to continue this meeting one or two weeks further to the call of the Town Moderator.

Seconded at 9:11pm by Peter Delios

Peter Manoogian, Precinct 10 doesn't think 1 or 2 weeks will change anything. What do you expect to happen in 1 or 2 weeks?

Chris Riley, Precinct 2 is hoping to find out how we can market it to the voters without putting a gun to their heads. To study this issue further.

Robert Long, Precinct 9 speaks at 9:15pm stating how in 2 week's time we can look at this to present this to the town. Does the town really want to have an election for a debt exclusion?

Jeff Cicolini, 6 Hitching Hill Road speaks 9:18pm supports this project but strongly consider saying no on this project. To put this in the hands of the voters and do some homework on getting this funded.

William Stewart, Precinct 3 speaks at 9:22pm he is not against the school but not this quickly.

Dan Kelly, Precinct 9 speaks at 9:23pm is concentrating on the cost of this project but what are we buying into? There is a lot of questions that need to be answered.

Chris Riley, Precinct 2 still wants to make a committee. He withdraws his Amendment.

Robert Long, Precinct 9 asks about the change in the number of students would that change the principal and interest.

Carla Scuzzarella answers at 9:26pm about the number of students.

Robert Long, Precinct 9 asks if there will be a sliding payment on number of students.

Carl Scuzzarella states Yes.

Town Manager, Scott Crabtree speaks at 9:28pm asking for Wendy Hatch, Treasurer to give some clarification.

Wendy Hatch, Saugus Treasurer speaks at 9:29pm conversation with Peter Frazer at First Hilltop Securities, the allocation of the 1281 to 1600 students, based on the enrolled numbers October 2021 were not available. They used the enrolled of 170 students from October 2020. There will be a sliding debt service scale if we go under the number of students.

Jeff Cicolini, Board of Selectmen speaks at 9:32pm asked if it will be equally capped.

Town Manager speaks at 9:33pm to clarify the number of students and the costs associated with that.

Carla Scuzzarella speaks t 9:35pm answers Mr. Cicolini comments and they get a lot of applications from Saugus.

Jeff Cicolini, Board of Selectmen speaks at 9:38pm about the waiting list and who would get placed. The waiting list with the new enrolled would that drive that percentage up?

Carla Scuzzarella answers the question.

Town Manager, Scott Crabtree speaks at 9:42pm this is going to be more than 1.3% and be prepared for that and the number where it is realistically. Either you support the project or not and how do you find it. Plan for \$1.6 or \$1.7 million each year.

Darren Ring, Precinct 10 states need to sell this to the residents to pay for it.

Peter Manoogian, Precinct 10 bring it to the voters “Not to exceed”.

Article as Voted:

Article 2: Voted to not recommend that the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the costs attributed to the construction of the facilities of Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School located at 100 Hemlock Road, Wakefield, MA 01880.

Town Moderator explains what the vote means; A Yes vote is for the Finance Committees Recommendation above and a No vote is for the Article as originally written by the Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School District.

Roll Call votes at 9:52pm.

Article 2	YES Vote to accept FinCom recommendation; NO vote to accept				Article as written			
	Pct	Vote	Pct	Vote	Pct	Vote	Pct	Vote
Arone, A.	1	Y	8	Y		Rando, P.	3	Y
Bartolo, J.	6	Y	N	Y		Riley, C.	2	Y
Berube, K.	9	Y	1	Y		Ring, D.	10	Y
Brown, W.	6	Y	9	Y		Rodenhiser, J.	1	Y
Camuso Sr, R.	2	Y	7	Y		Rossetti Jr, P.	2	N
Chipouras, J.	7	Y	4	Y		Scrivano, M.	6	N
Cicolini, J.	8	A	9	Y		Smith, R.	3	Y
Connors Jr, A.	3	Y	8	Y		Spencer, B.	5	Y
Costello, M.	10	Y	10	Y		Stewart, W.	3	A
Cottam, J.	9	A	7	A		Thompson, R.	3	Y
Cross III, W.	8	Y	5	Y		Traverse, T.	8	N
Currie, K.	6	N	5	Y		Vecchione IV, J.	2	N
Davis, G.	4	Y	2	A		Wallace, R.	5	Y
Delios, P.	10	Y	7	Y		Whitcomb, A.	4	Y
Divriglio, S.	10	A	1	Y		Whitcomb, M.	4	Y
Doherty, S.	4		6	Y		Worthley, J.	9	Y
Dunn, S.	1	Y	7	N				



Yea=	37
Nay=	6
Abst=	6

Date: 10/18/2021

10/18/2021 ATM

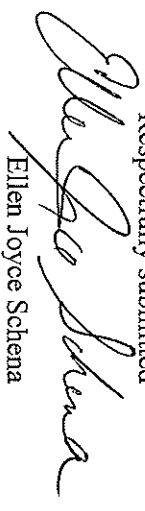
Town Meeting votes for the Financial Committee Recommendation with a Yea 36, Nay 6 and 6 Absent which could trigger an election to the voters at 9:53pm

Moderator asks for a motion to adjourn Special Town Meeting at 9:53pm

Seconded at 9:53 p.m.

Unanimous voice vote at 9:54 p.m. to adjourn sine die.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ellen Joyce Schena".

Ellen Joyce Schena
Saugus Town Clerk