PLYMPTON SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Plympton Town House, Community Meeting Room

Friday, February 20, 2015

Moderator John A. Traynor, Jr. declared there being a quorum present (35) and preparation and posting of the warrant and the procedure was accomplished in accordance with the law and, therefore, the Special Town Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M., in the Community Meeting Room at the Plympton Town House.

Mr.Traynor introduced the Board of Selectmen Chairman Mark Russo, Colleen Thompson and John Henry, Town Clerk Tara J. Morrison, and the Town Accountant. The Tellers were Patricia Detterman and Jean Reynolds. Finance Committee Members present were: Mark Gabriel, Marilyn Brown, Lisa Hart and Chairperson Susan Ossoff as well as members of the SL Regional School Committee.

On the motion of Mark Russo and voted unanimously by the townspeople, the following were also allowed participation when appropriate: Town Coordinator Dale Pleau, Town Accountant Barbara Gomez, and SLRSD Superintendent John Tuffy.

Peace Officer present was James Marinelli.

There were 88 registered voters present and 8 non-registered Plympton citizens present.

**VOTE**: (On the motion of Maureen Springer and seconded by Jason Fraser) To see if the Town will vote to approve the revised and increased Silver Lake District Operation Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 including applying $619,000 from the District’s Excess and Deficiency Budget to pay for long term security, building, grounds and equipment capital needs with no change in the Town’s assessment or take any action thereon.

Discussion:

Maureen Springer of 26 Granville Baker Way, gave a description of the article and the reason for the need to bring to a Special Town Meeting. She also made note that any remaining balance will be returned to the 3 towns, Plympton, Kingston and Halifax, who are in the schools district.

John Henry stated that the Boards in Plympton were extremely disappointed at the process that was followed by the SL Regional School Committee. He also stated that on January 8, 2015, the SL Regional School Committee was in gross violation of the Open Meeting Law precipitating Mr. Henry to file a complaint with the Attorney General’s Office.

George Colby of 380 Main Street, questioned “if we vote no, does this money go back into the general fund”?

Maureen Springer replied “According to the DOR and law, any funds above and beyond the E & D amount goes back to the town. It is a very unique situation”.

George Golby looking for a point of clarification- “Would there be a reduction of what we would be paying next year?”

Maureen Springer replied “yes”.

Susan Ossoff, Finance Committee Chairperson, of 37 Upland Road, spoke:

Clarified:  
The Finance Committee supports the schools strongly

The Town has always supported the schools.

Issues:

This is not Capital Planning being presented.Full and open discussion should be brought to the town. There is less revenue than last year. Level Funding at best will be allotted due to budget decreases.

Mark Russo, 140 Palmer Road reported that he believed Susan reported her information beautifully. After much review, Mark reported that he would be voting no.

Gail Knight, of 45 Winnetuxet Road, asked“Is there a reason for the timing, in January and not during the regular fiscal year cycle in May?”

Maureen Springer’s reply: Many projects must be done while the children are not in the school buildings, fields, parking lots, need to not be scheduled prior to summer. CTE Projects done by students and need planning to be done a year in advance.

Colleen Thompson, Selectmen, of 192 Main Street, also stated that the Selectmen are not against the school. What they are looking for is a democratic conversation.

Jason Fraser, 66 Maple Street, stated that he was not part of the SL vote. Pointed out that most of the projects listed are to restore building structure and grounds.

Jack Doyle, of 193 Main Street, moved the question.

Lisa Hart, 7 Marie Elaine Drive