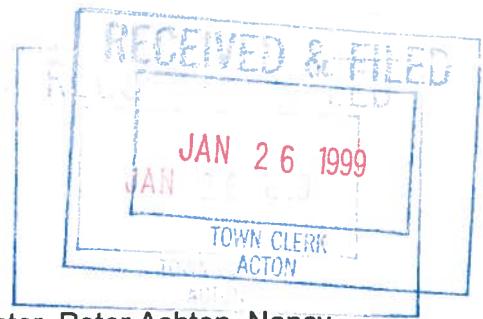


SELECTMEN'S MINUTES
December 21, 1998
Special Meeting



Present: Wayne L. Friedrichs, Herman Kabakoff, F. Dore' Hunter, Peter Ashton, Nancy Tavernier and the Town Manager. (The meeting was not televised) Meeting began at 5:00 P.M.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND APPOINTMENTS

Sewer Project

Dore' made a presentation regarding the funding options for the sewer project. The problem is that it appears from recent correspondence that we may only be getting 11.2 million this year. He notes that this is a problem being experienced by other communities as well as in Acton.

The group will be meeting with the State to try to attempt to secure a funding promise on Tuesday.

Dore' does not think it is feasible to shrink the system, the cost would be prohibitively expense. If they begin the project we must move forward as we are involved with bonding. He feels that we could proceed the first year for the 11.5 if we begin the project later in the year.

He offered 4 options if the funding is not received.

He suggested that we call a Special Town Meeting for the end of January and be prepared to move forward. He wanted that decision made tonight.

Jesse Liberty asked about and suggested we be careful what we imply the affects on the school project might be. He wanted it phrased so that it would not stop the school project just make it more expensive.

Chuck Olmstead said it was clear we need classrooms and we need sewers too. He felt that if it doesn't go, both issues should be up for review. The taxpayers cannot afford all the things on the plate and those projects and additional 10 million interest cost he felt it was too much of a burden. He feels that the voters would have voted differently. He was in favor of going back town meeting.

John Prenderville said the public health is important and felt it is incumbent to solve the problem and build sewers. He felt they should sell it to the State as a public health issue in the meeting.

Wayne noted that without the sewers many things that we need are going to be

affected radically.

Dore' said we would inform them about costs with regard to school project.

Sidney Johnston felt that we should analyze the other communities had been contacted by DEP and to put together a list of towns that have been in this bind and what they have done to successfully get 0 interest loans as well as the facts that contributed to pass or failure and their experiences.

They felt that this would be a good question for Gotlieb as the State would have this information.

ART Gagne felt that if we generate numbers suggested by Jesse he did not feel he would like to pay a betterment for just sewerizing schools. The schools cannot apply for a 0-funding loan. It was noted that the 11.5 would not automatically go toward the school sewers. He noted that the other communities are doing upgrades we are doing new and felt that the State would be more willing to fund projects already in the ground.

Bob Evans felt we needed to go back to Town Meeting. He felt we should remember how the schools are funded and we might have to wait and perhaps we would pay for 1-year interest. He felt the betterment charge of \$14,000 is not much different in cost than what a homeowner would have pay for a private septic system replacement.

John Prenderville wants it to be bid in one total package. After discussion the Board agreed and will address it tomorrow.

Mike Scanlon noted North Shore communities have the pipe in the ground and the funding is not forthcoming. He wanted to know what pressures are going to be applied from the school committee aspect as they have an engineering solution but would put severe pressure on campus and fields and will have to look for offsite.

Jesse felt we have a strong case on health and cost side. If the best we get for the entire project, he felt we would need to look at option 3 and 4 of Dore's options.

Pam Resor noted she had received a call from Gotlieb and he felt we would be able to work toward a solution.

Arthur Gagne' would be reluctant to accept the States word even if it were in writing, the 10 million for next year would have to be appropriated and the legislature may decide they are not going to fund SRF next year. He wanted to go to town meeting with new options and decide what the Town wants to do.

Andy MaGee said any promise of what legislature is going to fund is not the States responsibility and felt we would not be getting a promise for additional 10 million tomorrow.

John Prenderville felt we need to have a meeting with the people in the Middle Fort Pond District and their interests should be discussed to have them brought up to speed. Everyone all agreed.

Nancy said it is either that we get full amount or drop the project. She felt that therefore the only option was all or nothing.

Jesse felt we should go into the meeting honestly and felt that we should go into it genuinely. Pam said that he has been working with him. She feels he is aware of the options we have.

Sidney suggested fiber optics be put in the Ground and charge them the companies to offset the sewer costs.

DORE' HUNTER -Moved to call a Special Town Meeting for January 26, 1999 at 7:00 pm for the purpose of the discussion tonight, and to close the Warrant for such meeting at the adjournment of this meeting. NANCY TAVERNIER - SECOND. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

COA BUILDING

The Board asked staff to invite the Audubon Hill group in to discuss their recently filed citizens' petition. The Board felt that January 19, 1999 would be available for a brief discussion.

SELECTMEN'S BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA

DORE' HUNTER - Moved to approve. PETER ASHTON - Second - Nancy Tavernier -UNANIMOUS VOTE.

DORE' HUNTER – MOVED to close the 1999 Annual Town Meeting Warrant at 12:00 Noon on December 31 1998. PETER ASHTON – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The Board adjourned at 6:30

Nancy E. Tavernier
Clerk
1/19/99
Date

Christine Joyce
Christine Joyce

December 8, 1998