

WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION
EDUCATE, CHALLENGE, & INSPIRE

WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION Tuesday, March 27, 2018 Special Board of Education Meeting Mulvey Municipal Center – Room A

MINUTES

BOE Members Present: Lee Bridgewater, Mary Ella Luft, Kim Walker, Don Perreault, Michelle Palumbo, Zachary Hayden

BOE Members Absent: Jackie Lyman, Dee Adorno, Sally Greaves

Also Present (BOE): Superintendent Patricia A. Ciccone; Business Manager, Lesley Wysocki, Roger LeFleur, Consultant

Also Present (BOS): First Selectman Noel Bishop; Selectman John Hall; Selectwoman Mary Labbadia; Paul Connelly, BOF Chairman; Atty. Wells; John, Riggio, Dir. of Public Works; George Pytlik, BOF; Lester Scott, Fire Dept.; Tony Cozza, BOF; Donna Castracane, Dir. of Finance; Don Izzo, Emergency Mgmt., Gary Gavigan, BOF.

Moved by D. Perreault and seconded by M. Palumbo to nominate Kim Walker as Temporary Chair. Vote unanimous.

- I. CALL TO ORDER – The Special Meeting of March 27, 2018 was called to order by K. Walker at 7:00 p.m.
- II. Joint meeting with Board of Selectmen Town of Westbrook, to discuss the next steps regarding D.E.E. P. Notice of Violation re: In-ground oil tanks on town and school properties.

Noel Bishop, First Selectman, called the joint meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and opened the meeting stating that the D.E.E.P. issued several Notices of Violation to the Town of Westbrook in regard to underground fuel tanks located on school property, at the Town Hall, library, Riggio Building, firehouse and historical building. He provided a history of events as to what has taken place thus far to address these violations.

Superintendent Ciccone forwarded a letter to Paul Connelly, BOF Chair, updating the Board on the BOE plan to address the D.E.E.P Notice of Violation and to request a transfer of funds from the BOE. L. Wysocki reported that a formal RFQ was sent out for the removal of the tanks, filling in the hole and re-landscaping. The BOE also

considered replacing the generators at Daisy and the High School in its Long Range Plan..

The BOE did not include a plan for installation of above ground storage tanks. It also planned for a dual source (natural gas) fuel for potential upgraded generators.

John Riggio, at the direction of the First Selectman, contacted several oil tank removal companies. His recommendation was to put above ground tanks in for a dual fuel source. He also stated that using the Public Works Department for some aspects of the project would reduce costs. His proposal included removing the oil from the old tanks, storing it and then putting it in the above-ground replacement tanks. He also suggested the installation of “used” above-ground tanks. The school’s proposal included a contractor who would dispose of the oil at no cost and another’s proposal to remove the oil at a cost of \$1 per gallon. It was also suggested the school burn the current supply of oil. L. Wysocki commented that if the school were to switch to burning the oil now, they would be breaking the contract with Sprague and incurring penalty fees.

John Riggio’s proposal, fixed the cost potentially for the entire project at \$70,000.

Roger LeFleur, Consultant for BOE, spoke about his role in the project to oversee the removal of the tanks and the installation of new generators. He said the generator at Daisy is about 42 years old and the generator at the high school is 25 years old, and although they have been well maintained, they are past the normal lifetime and parts to repair them may not be available. He did not have a preference regarding oil vs gas.

There was discussion regarding maintaining a dual source of fuel at the schools. D. Izzo, L. Scott, and G. Pytlik commented that they supported dual fuel source.

Superintendent Ciccone commented on the importance of keeping in mind what Emergency Management suggested as the emergency window to be 7-10 days.

N. Bishop brought up the possibility of forming an Ad Hoc committee, but also said that in the past, a School Building Committee was established to address projects of this nature. It was suggested by Attorney Wells that this project should be forwarded to the Building Committee for their recommendations. If the most recent School Building Committee had not officially been disbanded, the recent School Building Committee members could be contacted for their interest in remaining on the committee and members could be replaced if necessary. Superintendent Ciccone asked that it be verified that the School Building Committee was not officially disbanded.

The Board of Selectmen will finalize the committee members at the April 3, 2018 BOS meeting.

N. Bishop commented that no action is necessary at this meeting and that these issues would be referred to the Building Committee. L. Wysocki reported the school has an

extension with D.E.E.P. through the summer for completion of the oil tank removal project.

- III. ADJOURN: Moved by N. Bishop to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. and seconded by M. Labbadia. Vote unanimous.

Moved by K. Walker and seconded by M. Palumbo to move into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. Discussion of matters that would result in the disclosure of exempt matters.

Further discussion of the issues and concerns: BOE members expressed concern regarding the installation of “used” above ground tanks; and the importance of using certified contractors. Roger LaFleur gave his opinion of “used/refurbished tanks” and their warranties. Don Perrault and Mary Ella Luft commented that they would be willing to serve on the School Building Committee in view of the recent resignations, with L. Bridgewater, L. Wysocki, and P. Ciccone as Ex-Officio.

Moved by D. Perreault and seconded by M. Luft to go back into Regular meeting session. Regular session adjourned at 8:25 p.m. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Cecilia S. Lester, Board Recording Clerk