

Town of Burnham

Select Board Minutes

Monday, March 9, 2020 7:00pm

Location: Fire Department, Troy Road

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

Present: Joyce Ryan, Administrative Assistant

Select Board: George Robison, Chairman
Kristy Haworth
Wayne Mitchell

Approval of Select Board minutes of February 24, 2020.

Motion made and seconded to approve minutes of February 24, 2020. with the addition of statutory titles for executive sessions

Vote: All in favor (3-0)

Approval of Warrant #5

Motion made and seconded for approval of Warrant #5

Vote: All in favor (3-0)

New Business -

Motion made and seconded to enter executive session at 7:07 pm for a Personnel Matter (1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(A)).

Vote: All in favor (3-0)

Motion made and seconded to exit executive.

Vote: All in favor (3-0)

Approval of Warrant #5

Motion made and seconded to approve Warrant #5.

Vote: All in favor (3-0)

Animal Control Officer

Appointment papers signed as presented for Brandon Blaisdell

Old Business -

Municipal building sagging floor. Chris Cook investigated the sagging floor. No major issues found. In order to determine the lift needed it will require further evaluation. Recommend - to approve a by the hour cost to have the work completed.

Motion made and seconded to have Chris Cook do an evaluation only and pay hourly rate plus equipment rental cost.

Vote: All in favor (3)

Complaints –

FYI – only. Stop sign down at Patterson's, corner of S.Horseback and Pond Road.

Charlie King notified – DOT called and taken care of same day.

No action needed.

Reports

Administrative Assistant

-The Primary Election went smoothly. A large voter turnout. Also, a very large number of address changes bottlenecked the Voter Registration table, this due to a recent state law – Voter must state name and address.

-Cay and I continue to make changes in the office, both in appearance and function.

-The Town has received a check from Efficiency Maine in the amount of \$280, for completing an energy efficiency project.

-Have identified a few more areas needing attention; payroll, legal fees. I am keeping a list so we can formerly address the area once I am in the office full time.

Requested Information given to Select Board

Foreclosure and sale of property – 65 years of age or older.

No action needed.

Correspondence given to Select Board

-Kennebec Valley Council of Governments

Joint Purchase invite to participate – culverts

-Central Maine Power

No Action needed.

7:30 Public Hearing

Petition for withdrawal with the board of directors of regional school unit, MSAD #53.

Public Hearing began at 7:30 pm with over 100 citizens in attendance.

Select Board Chair Robison opened the public hearing at 7:30 pm with over 100 Citizens in attendance. Chair Robison introduced School Board and Superintendent in attendance.

Select Person Mitchell briefed the public on the 22-step process of withdrawing from MSAD #53. Mitchell directed the public to Title 21 should they require further information.

Citizen question - Before spending money; what evidence is there for cost saving should this be approved? Chair Robison - there is no evidence, we would lose some independence. Select Person Kristy – explained the vote this month; before we can finalize any withdrawal, the town would have to know what the terms would be. The Board of education approved. Geo also explained we may have to pay money when we with draw, we don't know.

Citizen question - how does the board stand? Select Person Mitchell – we have no stand... there was a petition filed.

Kristy explained – citizen initiative.

Concern – we pay more per student than Pittsfield – Select Board Chair Robison - The town is assessed based on our values, not how many kids. The State dictates this based on real estate.

1.3 million 138 students to SAD#53. Detroit 143 at 750 thousand,

Citizen – Our valuation is set by the State, so it doesn't matter where we go

Citizen – MCI should be less, Select Board Chair Robison reminded public discussion is for SAD #53 not MCI

Citizen – why would we not want to know where our kids are going; why would we pull out of SAD #53 they have done a lot for our children.

Citizen – Is it more because it is Waldo County? Can you give us the cost; Board Chair Mitchell – we can't until we get down into the procedure list – must follow this list.

Citizen – has heard of if go where we want could spend a lot more than now.

Citizen – child couldn't read; harassed at lunch; has not had great services; had to pull child out and put in private school and feels SAD # is more interested in sports uniforms than in reading and writing.

Citizen – if not exclusive to a district – this will open it up so if not happy can place student where you want.

Athens pays 9400 flat rate – there will be issues no matter where you send you child. One size mentality is what we have in SAD #53. Doesn't mean SAD #53 is bad, it just may be bad for a particular child, no way of knowing which way is cheaper; once you pull from a district; you are not bound for evaluation you will pay per student

Citizen – cost of transportation – how will they get there, bussing whole issue not explored yet; general format – about things right or wrong.

Citizen – child succeed at MCI – why pull; if you chose to pull your child, do so, but don't pull out. It is all one person wanting to pull out

Citizen – children – mixed issues, would like to praise district in the bullying area... works hard preventing also very concerned about student to teacher ratio.

Citizen runs a nonprofit – information was not on subject

Citizen show of hands for how many from Burnham – 95 percent. This meeting is to see if we can save; start conversation could help to save.

Citizen – if Yes vote they want us to start, then back to the town before next step – eventually there will be other votes,

Citizen – after first vote will town know if there are savings or where they go. Select Board Mitchell not until after the commissioner does its part (establish a 4-member withdrawal committee) Select Board Mitchell if Yes next Friday, a committee is formed they negotiate, when will we end contract and terms. Negotiation process also includes how we will deal with all of that.

Citizen – should we vote yes – and spend money – if town votes no the next time do we stay in district - Answer is Yes

The board can only go by what the statue says.

Citizen – who ever brought the petition has a right to; does anyone know if any of the surrounding school districts want our children? Select Board Mitchell -NO this is further down in the process. Citizen- so before we spend the money; stay where we are

Citizen asked when contract ends with SAD #53, School Board Hughes – his understanding is the town isn't under contract, the district is, and it is up in 2023.

Citizen- if yes vote; spend money to negotiate, to find out could cost more, or schools can't take our child so could be money spent with no gain.

Citizen – our kids are in a totally different education going from one district to another school it is a different level than our children, all schools are different

Select Board Hapworth we are a member of SAD #53 – as a member our children go to MCI because they contract – if didn't have SAD#53 we would not have contract.

Citizen –The petition signers can take child to any school they want.

Superintendent of schools – can fill out a super agreement; but the sending and receiving supers must agree

Citizen- Mt.View vs Pittsfield – Pittsfield the kids get involved. If SAD #53 not working let's fix it

Superintendent – the State puts out a cost calculation every February. Also explained worksheet page 1 there are so many areas that we have NO control over.

Citizen asked Superintendent to explain what the dollars 2.4 pays for – arts, etc.

Citizen – chose to home school and wasn't allowed to participate in any school function. This budget is for K -12; another district that doesn't have high school – MCI does not need state credentials teachers – any other that isn't private must be state certified.

Citizen – in summer pays extra in the for child to participate in activities. Suggest that we all just pay our taxes and support.

Citizen – if this is open, will the state make the school selection. Select Board Mitchell – My understanding -it is the board of ed. Citizen – so now we have made the district made... Select Board Hapworth there is not another District that has to take Burnham.

Citizen if we stay with SAD #53 cost remains the same. Yes.

Citizen – asked if petition signers did any cost analysis to start or did, they just sign? Select Board Hapworth explained that we have no numbers from anyone.

Citizen received an email from Maine Board of Education, bussing would be more but no way of knowing what cost would be if the withdrawal happens

Citizen feels education is a lot of money for the older population of Burnham and would like to make sure all citizens have a say. Afraid some people don't know. Select Board Hapworth explained that we had to post and advertise.

Citizen – the \$10,000 what does it pay and is it capped. Withdrawal committee would be authorized to spend the \$10,000 and if more money the committee would need to come back for more.

Citizen – the cost issue would need to be taken up with the state, recommends that we not uproot our children

Citizen if we vote NO is there any way to get even representation to vote on school budget; Select Board Hapworth – the School Board represents, and the citizens need to get their concerns to the Board. Is there anyway to get even representation – other towns have more representatives and it is a weighted vote – example – Pittsfield has an over whelming majority and vote down. Our School Board hasn't seen this and feel we are getting even representation.

Superintendent – explained the vote process on. Board member Hughes – there are more representatives from Pittsfield, doesn't mean they vote everything down – this is about the KIDS and that is what he sees at the Board of Education level.

SAD #53 Representative - By state law if Burnham started process, Burnham would need to have K-8 in order to have school choice – if we withdraw need to be part of another school system.

8:40 closed public hearing

Meeting adjourned motion made and seconded

Vote: All in favor. (3-0)

Respectfully Submitted

Joyce Ryan

Administrative Assistant to the Select Board