

IN BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1997

Present: Chairman Lawrence L. Blacker and Selectmen Maryann K. Clark and John C. Drobinski.

The statutory requirements for notice having been met, the meeting was convened by Chairman Blacker at 7:27 p.m. in the library at the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School.

Special Town Meeting

Chairman Blacker informed the Board that it had been determined, contrary to the initial legal opinion received by the Board, that the Rogers Theatre project could be bundled with the other capital items. He further stated that in any event the Parks and Recreation item should remain separate, because it was not being presented at the Special Town Meeting, and the Board agreed.

Annual Town Meeting

The Board discussed possible candidates to be honored at the Annual Town Meeting (to move the first article).

Selectman Drobinski commented that the Board would have time to consider this matter further at its next meeting.

The Board recessed its meeting, noting that it would resume its meeting to determine the "bundling" issue, after the adjournment of the Special Town Meeting.

At 9:35 p.m. the Board continued its meeting in the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School Library.

Ballot Questions for March 31, 1997 Town Election

Present: Chairman Karen Krone, William Braun, Sudbury School Committee; Carol Zais, Kirsten Roopenian, Edward Sooper, Ralph Tyler and others.

Chairman Blacker stated that articles to fund the Public Works building, fire station renovations, school building program, school land purchase, and Regional High School Rogers Educational Center had all been funded by the Special Town Meeting subject to exclusion of debt by the electorate, and that it was necessary for the Selectmen to decide that evening how the ballot questions would be formatted (combined or separated).

With little discussion, the Board unanimously agreed to place the question of excluding the debt for Park & Recreation facilities (\$60,000) on the ballot, but as a separate question, since this matter is on the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting.

Chairman Blacker expressed his preference to "bundle" all of the STM votes into one question on the basis that the townspeople had spoken via their votes at Town Meeting, and that this was a community effort which should be addressed as such and not as a contest of one element against the other.

Selectman Clark spoke strongly in favor of separating each question, stating 1) the Board should learn from the reality of the past when a combining of questions did not work, 2) unbundling would be the democratic way, 3) there may not be a total consensus for every project passed and with unbundling each would stand on its own merit, 4) there would be a sense of involvement in the decision for everyone, and 5) there is a risk with one question that it will all get voted down, and she would rather have a piece approved than none at all.

Resident Edward Sooper suggested the land purchase for Loring School should be combined with the school building program; resident Ralph Tyler disagreed and Selectman Clark agreed.

Mr. Sooper opined that Town Meeting had voted separately, and each item should therefore stand on its own.

Selectman Drobinski's perspective was largely in agreement with Chairman Blacker's. He reasoned that some articles had not passed, but Town Meeting found a need for all of the items which are now to be placed on the ballot. He expressed his belief that to survive as a community the items should be combined into one ballot question. He further stated that the capital plan is a program for everyone in the community, and as Selectmen, they had to take the entire town into consideration.

Resident Carol Zais repeatedly expressed her strong conviction that the voters should be given a choice by separating the questions. Mr. Tyler and Mr. Sooper also spoke several times to persuade the Board to separate the questions.

Resident Kirsten Roopenian stated that she was a parent advocate and that it was very important to herself and those who had been working on behalf of the school building program that the funding for the schools be a separate question.

Selectman Drobinski maintained his position that he must do what was best for the community as a whole.

Selectman Clark reiterated her belief the voters should have a right to choose - that it was a two-part system (Town Meeting and the polls). She said she did not feel the Selectmen had the right to make the decision for the public.

Chairman Blacker replied the Board was charged to do what is in the best interest of the community.

Mr. Sooper suggested a compromise of combining just the Public Works facility and the Sudbury Schools items.

On motion by Chairman Blacker, it was

VOTED: To place the following questions on the ballot for the March 31, 1997 Annual Town Election:

BALLOT QUESTION NO. 1

Shall the Town of Sudbury be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued in order to do the following:

- A) Remodel, reconstruct, construct additional space or make extraordinary repairs to the existing Town Highway Department facility off Old Lancaster Road and/or construct a new Town building, purchase additional equipment and furniture, and landscaping, and to pay for all expenses connected therewith, for a Department of Public Works;
- B) Remodel or make extraordinary repairs to the building and property at Fire Station No. 2, 550 Boston Post Road, including but not limited to replacing a portion of concrete floor, replacing the roof, and paving driveway and parking lot, and to pay for all expenses connected therewith;
- C) Construct a new elementary school at the Loring School site, 80 Woodside Road, and remodel, reconstruct or make extraordinary repairs and additions to all existing elementary and middle schools, and to pay for all expenses connected therewith;
- D) Purchase all or a portion of Lots 12A and 13A, adjacent to the Loring School property on Woodside Road, to be used in connection with the Loring School site for school purposes;
- E) Pay for the Town's apportioned share of the bonds issued by the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District in order to finance costs of reconstructing, equipping, remodeling, and making extraordinary repairs to the Rogers Educational Center at the regional high school on Lincoln Road, and to pay for all expenses connected therewith?

(Chairman Blacker and Selectman Drobinski in favor; Selectman Clark opposed.)

BALLOT QUESTION NO. 2

Shall the Town of Sudbury be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued in order to develop or reconstruct recreational facilities, and to pay for all expenses connected therewith?

(Chairman Blacker, Selectman Drobinski and Selectman Clark in favor.)

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Steven Ledoux  
Town Manager-Clerk