

IN BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2004

Present: Chairman Kirsten D. Roopenian and Selectman Lawrence W. O'Brien.

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, the special meeting was convened by Chairman Roopenian at 9:15 p.m. at the Fire Department Headquarters, 77 Hudson Road.

Property Tax Equity Review Committee Surveys

Present: Town Counsel Paul L. Kenny.

Town Manager Maureen Valente presented the Board with a request from Property Tax Equity Review Committee (PTERC) Co-Chair Tara Reed to release the redacted version of the confidential survey results. The Board also had referred several questions to Town Counsel for clarification on when a document becomes public and any actions that might be appropriate when one member of a committee acts to release documents without the approval of the committee to which he belongs.

Town Counsel advised the Board that the act of handing the Chairman of the Board a document at a Board meeting does not make the document public. Town Counsel advised the Board that the survey was sent out saying it is confidential and it should remain so, and this is provided for as an exception under the public documents laws.

After discussion, the Board determined that they will maintain what they believe and have had confirmed by Town counsel, that not only the original surveys but any comments taken from them, however sanitized, are and should remain confidential. However, if the PTERC wants to release the sanitized version among themselves, that will be their own decision, and they need to be aware that at least that version then becomes public and requests to see it from the press or the public will need to be honored. The Board emphasized one member of a committee should not take it upon himself to make this determination or release documents without full and completed voted approval of the committee.

Either Chairman Roopenian or Town Manager Valente will draft a statement from the Board for the entire Board to review. Such statement could be sent to the press, to the PTERC, or to those who have sent email to the Board, or all three.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Maureen G. Valente  
Town Manager-Clerk