

Town Meeting Forum Meeting - Draft
February 25, 2016
Orange Center School 6 pm

In attendance: Sue Perreault, Lee Youngman, Carolyn White, George Malek, Fred Kidder, Rose Kidder, Ralph Claflin, Mary Claflin, Corinne Relation, Darin Magwire, Jessica Foster, Chris Locarno, Tim Francke, Susette Bollard, Dustin Comstock, George Wild, Jr., Ronald Tallman, Kathie Felch and Lynn Craig

Darin Magwire, Chair of the School Board called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Darin Magwire explained Act 46 centralized nursing, special Ed, and transportation. 186,000 fund bal. Bus/Back in taxes amount of \$75,250 so that is why reduction in revenue. \$30,000 roof and \$24,750 for bus. Voted down the pre-school. Study committee is working on looking at Joint school district with Waits River, Washington and Orange, but keeping all 3 buildings. Will eliminate school boards but not save money.

Carolyn White asked how many students in 6th – 8th grade. Tim Francke state 47 students currently. She then asked have we looked into sending middle school to Williamstown. Chris felt it would not be a bad idea.

Chris is currently split between ONSU & WSSU (Northfield Union) so half salary now.

Chris explained that there is currently 10 preschool with no cost to the town go to Washington through Head Start. So going to remove the \$15,000 that was budgeted at Town Meeting. Will save about \$0.01 off the tax rate.

Chris explained that it is mandated that the transportation be taken over by the supervisory union bill back to the school the same expense. Our drivers are not guaranteed. Student Transportation will put them first in line but need to go through interview process.

George Malek \$70,000 for bus had \$25,000 X 2. Should have a sinking fund. Contract services school would have to prove it was a substantial savings which cannot prove.

School budget currently at \$2,818,562 if they minus \$15,000 for preschool will bring it to \$2,803,562. Will reduce tax rate to .03. Attempting to keep it level. George Malek gave credit to the board for keeping the budget down level as possible with the increase in enrollment.

Tax Rate dropped last year \$.04 less than 2014.

2 year weighted averages are what they use for budget. 164 kids in K-12.

School meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Ron Tallman, chair of the Orange Select Board, Called the meeting to order at 6:47 p.m.

Ron explained about Article 3 & 4 eliminating the positions of Town Grand Juror, Town Agent, and Agent to Deed Land as they are all positions that need to be handled by the Town Attorney.

Article 5 Town Officers compensation no change.

Article 6 General Fund up \$.02 to \$250,102.00.

Article 7 Highway Fund down \$.01 to \$448,750.00.

Article 8 Raise \$3,000.00 for the maintenance of our Town Cemeteries.

Article 9- 17 money for non-profits no change.

Article 18 an addition for amount of \$5,000 for Recreation Committee.

Ron explained about the new Loader that is being purchased and the bridge project on Manning road that will be completed this year.

Ron thanked the board, Kathie, Lynn and the towns people for working with him during his term and advised that he will not be running again as he has other Personal obligations.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Ron called the special Select Board meeting to order at 7:24 p.m.

Reason for the meeting is to sign the equipment note in the amount of \$25,000 with a 1.75% rate for 1 year.

George made a motion to sign the note as explained above and Dustin 2nd it. All board members signed the note.

Ron also discussed the issues with the board about whether we continue to go through Barre Town or hire our own Animal Control officer. A decision will be made at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Submitted by Lynn Craig Assistant Town Clerk