

COMMITTEE OF THE CHAIRS
Special Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.
Town Hall – Finance Department Conference Room

Present: Christopher Palmieri, Brian Goralski, John Leary (via teleconference), Michael DelSanto, Timothy Connellan, and Mark Sciota

Also present:

Call to Order

Chairman Palmieri called the meeting to order at 4:30.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 5th 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Board Communications

Chairman Goralski stated there was one BOE meeting since we last met. We met the new principal and celebrated new leaders. School started off well, sad news which Mr. Connellan addressed and we are grateful our community came together.

Chairman DelSanto stated Planning and Zoning approved the Truck Wash was approved on Route 10. Great news! After 18 years we are able to clean it up and have a business there generating funds.

TM Sciota stated the money in the capital budget he had set aside for a car wash at the Highway Garage can now be shifted to the parks or roads. The Town has established a public private partnership with this particular company.

Items for Discussion

Plans for supporting students in the wake of the recent loss of a student

Superintendent Connellan stated the staff did an amazing job pulling together. Friday will be a difficult day for both kids and adults.

Chairman Goralski stated this tragedy shows the strength of our community.

Chairman Palmieri stated the vigil was well attended, a phenomenal tribute to her life. Thanked the PD for doing the best they could in a horrific situation.

School safety update

Superintendent Connellan stated he is very pleased with the upgrade to the camera system. We have a fantastic security system at the high school. You can see the entire campus which will help with security inside and well as outside. There is an app that will allow the PD to tap into the system if need be. Safety drills are very important, grateful for the training that continues to happen with the police department. The police department went through the training and drills with all the new staff.

Chairman Goralski stated Sergeant Lepard, our liaison to the police department, will be able to view our cameras to see how we react during routine drills. The fire department will also be able to see what we do during a routine fire drill.

Opening of school update

Superintendent Connellan stated we are fully staffed. First day went smooth, few transportation issues.

Chairman DeSanto stated he was very pleased with the cleanliness of Kennedy School. He also complimented the children giving tours.

November referendum

TM Sciota stated he has volunteers and is assigning them to do presentations at various clubs regarding the upcoming referendum. TM Sciota passed out an excel spreadsheet of various clubs with dates and times as well as presenters. The presentation itself is about 7 minutes long. We do have a budget sheet to review and pass out during the presentation.

Chairman Palmieri stated we are not ignoring the interest of the voters. What was brought up previously is the failed referendums and that we proceeded. The failed referendum was the Town Hall and as a result to that failing the other alternative was the North Center School which also took another decrepit building, the Beecher St building, and found a way to repurpose an old school to use it for the BOE and the Town.

Chairman Goralski stated by doing so it was supposed to save us \$3 million. If you do the math from then and today it's more than that. Beecher Street was then put back on the tax rolls and we now have a secondary Town Hall that has led us come together as elected boards. This has become the catalyst to the partnerships that is continuing to grow. We are not telling people how to vote, we are educating and informing.

Public Communications

None

Old Business

Chairman Palmieri thanked the partnership between the Town and BOE. STEPS, the drug free community grant, ends this month. This is a great partnership that we are able to continue by sharing the responsibility, a worthy cause in our Town.

Chairman Goralski informed everyone that the Grosky Farm area, end of Berlin and East Street, that there is an operational farm stand now. People can go there three days a week and buy fresh produce, which is grown on other Southington land by LEAF. If people have more ideas for Grosky Farm, please come to the committee. The Farm Heritage Committee works diligently to promote and make better the use of town owned farm land.

New Business

None

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn at 5:00p.m.