

Special Town Meeting April 28, 2010

The First Selectman, Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the lower level conference room of Town Hall.

The first order of business was to elect a Moderator. Joan Plock moved, and it was seconded to appoint Jane Berendsen-Hill as Moderator.

Vote: “Aye” votes unanimous, and Mrs. Hill was appointed Moderator.

The Moderator announced that the subject of the meeting was to consider approving an ordinance entitled “Public Safeguards and Traffic control During construction Within Public Rights-of-Way.”

John Palermo, 58 Blacksmith Ridge moved, and it was seconded to waive the reading of the legal notice that appears on page 240.

Vote: “Aye” votes unanimous and the motion was approved.

The Moderator asked for a motion to approve the ordinance. John Palermo moved, Jim Belote, 25 Spireview Rd. seconded to approve.

The Moderator called for discussion.

Elizabeth Maurer, 46 Nod Hill Rd., made a motion to amend the proposed ordinance.

John Katz, Ridgebury Rd., stated that there should be an amendment to amend the motion to approve.

Rudy Marconi suggested that the Moderator read the original proposed amendment and then the proposed amendment made by Ms. Maurer. The Moderator read both. (See the proposed amendment included in these minutes.)

John Katz, opined that the taxpayer should be aware of the amendment, since the ordinance would be completely rewritten. He felt that Roberts Rules allows for tweaking or minor amendments. It doesn’t propose that it be completely rewritten.

Ms. Maurer replied that she reread Roberts Rules and amendments were allowed.

Mr. Katz felt that the call of the meeting was to act on the proposed ordinance, not the proposed amendment.

After considerable discussion about Roberts Rules, and the opinion of the Town Attorney, David Grogins that amendments were allowed, the Moderator decided to proceed.

Ed Tyrrell moved and it was seconded to adjourn the meeting. The Moderator stated that there was a motion on the table, and she would not consider adjournment. Ms. Maurer declared that she would not yield to adjournment.

The Moderator stated that she would call a recess and reconvene to research Roberts Rules.

After a twenty minute recess, the Moderator reconvened the meeting at 9 p.m. After conferring with the Town Counsel on the matter of postponement, she read from Roberts Rules the following, “ Standard Descriptive Character #1”, which she said was relevant to the matter of postponement, and it stated that the motion to postpone took precedence over the main motion and any subsidiary motions to postpone indefinitely, to amend, and to commit.

Joan Plock moved, John Palermo seconded to postpone the meeting to May 26th, Veteran’s Park School , at 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Plock explained that that this would enable more people, who didn’t know what was being voted on, to attend and have a say in the matter.

Ms. Maurer objected heartily to the motion, stating that it was depriving people of their First Amendment right. Mrs. Hill replied that she researched the issue and the motion was in order.

Keith Miller, 6 Kendra Court, moved to “call the question” on the motion to postpone to a definite time.” Bob Cascella, 126 Ridgebury Rd., seconded the motion. The Moderator instructed the audience that a two-thirds majority was required to call the question. She asked for a vote by show of hands.

VOTE: The Moderator announced that the motion to “call the question” clearly passed.

The Moderator then called for a vote on the motion to postpone to a definite time, May 26th, at 7:30 p.m. at Veterans Park School.

VOTE: 35 in Favor, 32 Opposed. The motion passed.

Ed Tyrrell, Pond Rd. moved, Andy Bodner to recess the meeting.

Ms. Maurer objected that the vote was too close and asked for a recount. The Moderator declined the request.

The Moderator asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: “AYE” votes carried. 2 Nays.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Serfilippi, Town Clerk

