

Special Town Meeting December 19, 2016

The Special Town Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the First Selectman, Rudy Marconi, in the large conference room of Town Hall.

Mr. Marconi asked the audience to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked for a motion to appoint a Moderator. Maureen Kozlark made a motion, and it was seconded by Steve Zemo, to appoint Ed Tyrrell as Moderator.

Vote: "Aye" votes unanimous, and Mr. Tyrrell was elected Moderator.

The Moderator announced that the first order of business was to elect a secretary for the meeting. Maureen Kozlark made a motion, and it was seconded by Bob Hebert, to appoint Barbara Serfilippi, Town Clerk, as secretary.

Vote: "Aye" votes unanimous, and Ms. Serfilippi was elected secretary.

Mr. Tyrrell read the call of the meeting that appears on page 205. He explained that the meeting was to act upon a proposed lease of approximately 15 acres on Old Stagecoach R. between the Town of Ridgefield, lessor, and Whitney Freeman, lessee.

Mr. Tyrrell asked for a motion to approve. Maureen Kozlark moved, and it was seconded by a member of the audience. The Moderator then opened the floor for discussion.

Discussion:

The First Selectman gave a brief overview of the lease. He said the lease is for \$1 a year, and it enables Whiney Freeman, a sheep farmer, to seek a grant to build a well on the property under a U.S. Dept. of Agriculture program that gives some financial support so farmers can dig wells, but has a condition that the farmer control the land for at least five years. She had obtained her water in the past from a neighboring property.

Ms. Freeman informed the meeting that the grant was competitive. That is why she was eager to get her application in before the new year. She hopes she gets the approval soon and can dig a well next spring.

Mr. James Coyle, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, expressed the Commission's support of the lease.

Ted Cleveland, Shields Lane, wondered if there ought to be something in the lease to prevent animals from being kept on the site during winter, perhaps a seasonal limit in the lease. Ms. Freeman said that her animals would spend winter months back at her main property, with its barn on Ridgebury Rd. Mr. Cleveland also brought up the possibility of needing a shed on the property. Kitsey Snow, a member of the Conservation Commission, said that it was restricted by deed that there could not be any structures on the property.

After the discussion ended, the Moderator called for a vote on the lease.

Vote: "Aye" votes unanimous, and the lease was approved.

Maureen Kozlark made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by Bob Hebert.

Vote: "Aye" vote unanimous, and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Serfilippi, Town Clerk