

Minutes of a joint meeting of the Town Council and the School Committee held on December 3rd, A.D. 2015 at 6:30 o'clock PM in the Town Council Chambers, Town Hall, 40 Commons, Little Compton, RI.

Members present: Fred M. Bodington, III; Paul J. Golembeske, Gary S. Mataronas and Robert L. Mushen. Absent: Charles N. Appleton, Jr. Also present: Tom Dunn, Business Manager.

Additionally present: School Committee Members: Polly Allen, Lori Craffey and Pat McHugh. Absent from School Committee: Thomas Alder and Peg Bugara. Also present for the School: John McNamee, Business Manager and Carolyn Sedgwick, Asst. to Superintendent.

The Town Council President called to order this joint session of the Town Council and the School Committee at 6:30 PM.

As per RIGL 16-2-21 the Town Council President as the Chief Elected Official submitted an estimate of revenues for the next fiscal year. Councilor Mushen reviewed the submittal with those in attendance.

School Committee Member McHugh asked if the Drug Forfeiture Fund could be explained. Councilor Mushen reviewed the history of the funds and their expenditure explaining that the funds are limited to authorized use by the Department of Justice. Mr. McHugh asked if a ledger was kept of the expenditures, to which he was told that the fund is maintained by the Treasurers office where reports can be viewed.

Former Superintendent Kathryn Crowley has been called away to her new position in East Providence this evening. John McNamee, Business Manager for the School presented the schools statement of anticipated total expenditures and projected enrollments. He submitted the projected enrollments in writing. He spoke of anticipated increases in wages, benefits and pension as well as noting that the high school budget is operating at a slight deficit at the moment.

David Middleton asked if the School took into account the children currently attending the private Montessori pre-school. Answered by School Committee Member L. Craffey – yes birth rate and the pre-school numbers were both considered.

No further comments received this portion of the agenda concluded.

Councilor Mushen clarified that the Town of Little Compton by ordinance can and does at times indemnify employees. He added that he needed boards and commissions to understand that at the first moment of potential need for indemnification that the Town Council should be advised. In a recent instance an employee through some action was advised that she needed to obtain her own counsel, at this point the Council should have been advised in order to speak with the employee to discuss the matter further. Councilor Mataronas noted that the standard Council Agenda has a line that allows for

requests for legal services which could be used in these types of matters. No actions were taken.

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councilor Golembeske, voting in favor (Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): To adjourn this joint meeting of the Town Council and School Committee at 6:52 PM.

The School Committee adjourned their attendance as well at this time.

Carol A Wordell, Town Clerk