

**SPECIAL MEETING NORTH SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL MAY
11, 2015 KENDALL-DEAN SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
7:00 P.M.**

The starting time of the meeting changed from 7:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. due to Council member Ms. Alves who was delayed by traffic.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 P.M. and began with the prayer and the pledge to the flag. Council members present were Ms. Alves, Mrs. Nadeau and Mr. Zwolenski. Mr. Boucher was out of the state

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therefore he was unable to attend. Also in attendance were Town Administrator Hamilton and Town Solicitor Igliozzi.

EMERGENCY ROAD REPAIRS TO MEADOWBROOK AVENUE

Mr. Zwolenski took a ride by Meadowbrook Ave to investigate the damage. Town Solicitor Igliozzi stated Mr. Pendergast should submit a letter in writing to explain the urgency of the repairs. Repairs will start immediately whereas the road is dangerous.

PUBLIC HEARING/WORKSHOP RE: PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS

MOTION by Ms. Alves, seconded by Mrs. Nadeau, and voted

unanimously on a roll call vote to table the Public Hearing Workshop regarding any proposed Charter amendments to the town manager, replacement of town council vacancies, consolidation of services recorp division and anything else that may come up. This will continue to the July 20, 2015 meeting.

MOWRY ROAD

Mrs. Nadeau requested we have a plan in place to address the safety issues regarding the one way changing back into a two way.

Ms. Alves questioned how the public would be informed of the one way changing back into a two way street.

Town Administrator Hamilton suggested we use the sign in front of the police station to notify the public of this change.

Mrs. Nadeau pointed out that in the old plat maps Mowry Rd was a two way street with an island in the middle. This may solve the problems of both safety and public preference.

Town Administrator Hamilton would like to find out the cost for this construction before making any decisions.

Mr. Zwolenski suggests that we contact Burrillville and see if they are interested in sharing the cost of this construction.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mrs. Nadeau, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to make this the first reading. The second reading will take place at the next meeting on June 1, 2015.

SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES ON THE SEWER ASSESSMENT ORDINANCE-HORSLEY WITTEN GROUP

Mr. Zwolenski would like Town Solicitor Iglizzi to tighten up a few words in the Standard Municipal Agreement such as page 3 paragraph 11 to read “Horsley Witten”, not “HW” and paragraph 16 to read as follows, “The Laws of the State of Rhode Island shall govern this Agreement.” In addition, any other changes he feels we need to protect our township.

MOTION made by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mrs. Nadeau, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve the Supplemental Services for the Town of North Smithfield, provided by Horsley Witten Group. Once Town Solicitor Iglizzi has completed the amendments as noted above Town Administrator Hamilton may sign the agreement. This is not to exceed \$25,000.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION STAGE II

Former Town Council President/Former Chairman of Public Facilities Advisory Task Force John Flaherty stated he is speaking tonight to follow up on a previous offer to the town council (letter dated April 29, 2015) to assist the Council as it undertakes its review of stage II. He

would like to achieve three critical goals: 1.) Decommission and raze Halliwell School, which has been a significant money pit for the community 2.) Make provisions to accommodate the displaced students from Halliwell and 3.) Make sorely needed investments in our high school that have been long overdue.

Mr. Flaherty admits that the Town Council did not follow RIDE'S sequence of approval regulations. The town held a referendum after Stage I preliminary approval but before Stage II RIDE approval. He states that even if we had done the Stage II first we would still be

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in this very situation. Looking at the timetable (Mr. Flaherty prepared and handed out) for the School Bond, chronology there is no way we could have done a Stage II and completed it before the November vote. Mr. Flaherty also handed out copies of email interactions between himself, Mr. DeQuattro and School Superintendent Mr. Lindberg. Mr. Flaherty recommended that the next step would be to submit either a revised or a new Stage II, whichever RIDE requires.

Mr. Clifford is questioning Mr. DaSilva as to whether or not the composition of the School Building Improvement Advisory Committee actually meets the requirements of RIDE? Mr. Clifford states his concerns as follows; 1.) Should there be a member or a representative of the Town Council sitting on the Stage II Facilities Committee? 2.) Do we have a local budget official or member of a

local finance committee member? (Is the School Department's Business Manager a local Budget Official?) 3.) Do we have a member of the community with architectural engineering/and or construction experience? (Who is actually fulfilling that position?) If Mr. DeQuattro is the acting member for this committee there is a conflict of interest because he will basically be passing judgment on his own renderings and construction plans for reasonableness. Mr. Clifford also questions if RIDE condones having people on these facility committees, members of the communities, who have or may bid on projects with construction with the school department and have possibly been awarded contracts in the past.

Mr. Clifford states that the January 31, 2015 agenda posted by the School Committee Buildings Commission was not clear. There was nothing mentioned about a vote or action on Stage II application nor about the 1.6 million dollar increase of Stage II application. Had this agenda been clear about what was being done at the meeting many people would have attended.

Mr. Clifford questions the demographic changes for Stage II. He passed out a chart explaining these changes. There are many changes that do not seem to make sense. Why do we need more rooms if the enrollment has not increased? He would like someone to sit with him and clarify these changes.

Mr. DaSilva stated in his letter that part of the reason for denying the

bond is “at the moment there is no plan from the district or the town that matches the voter approval.” Mr. Clifford questions why one would submit a plan that exceeded the dollar amount when it appears that RIDE will not approve a plan unless the dollar amount matches the voter’s approval. Mr. Clifford questions whether RIDE would have approved anyhow due to the priorities listed for replacement state “where no alternative exists”. According to the Gilbane proposals enrollment configuration completed in 2012, there is an alternative.

Mr. Clifford would also like an explanation as to why Mr. Dequattro states we are adding 35 parking spaces when the schematic drawings show 208.

MOTION made by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mrs. Nadeau, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to ask the Town Solicitor to review all correspondence regarding Stage II applications between RGB, the School department and RIDE.

Mr. David Lowe of 80 Highview Ave commented that he is embarrassed due to the article in the Valley Breeze blaming Mr. Lindbergh for the issues with the bond for Stage II. Prior to the last election Mr. Lowe had passed out flyers advising people to vote no on this bond because the town had not yet applied for the Stage II bond and many details were unclear.

Carol Drainville of 750 Pound Hill Rd suggests that the town should

listen to the reasoning of the people who have proposed these extra spaces needed for classrooms.

Ms. Alves recommended that they keep letter C 1-4 on today's agenda: Discussion by Council, vote or other action regarding the School Construction Stage II application as an ongoing agenda item. She would like to obtain the residents feedback from all the meetings.

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MOTION made by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mrs. Nadeau, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to adjourn at 9:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Buttie, Deputy Clerk